SEATO RECORD

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- HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES
- SECURITY DIET FOR ASIA'S 'SOFT' SPOTS
- ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE MARKET-PLACE

SEATO RECORD

CONTENTS

	Page
GENERAL:	
Putting the Farmer in the Picture	1-2
Security Diet for Asia's Soft Spots	3-6
All Roads Lead to the Market-Place	7-9
Helping People to Help Themselves	10-12
FOREIGN AFFAIRS:	
Xuan Thuy Turns Deaf Ear to Fresh Harriman Peace Plea	13
Asian — Australia: No Policy Changes	14
A Peaceful Peking: Is It Possible?	15-16
Sir Neil puts U.K. Withdrawal in Perspective	16
N. Zealand Must Take Second Look At her Role in Asia; Bundy on U.S. Policy in S.E. Asia	17-18
DEFENCE:	
Spreading the Spoken word	19-21
MTTS Trainees Help Keep Helicopters Airborne	22-23
Civic Action — A Key Role for the Armed Forces	24-26
U.S. General Takes Over as Chief, M.P.O.	27
Items in Brief	28-29
PANORAMA:	
Three Thai Experts to Join SEATO Agricultural Project	30-31
SEATO Awards Fellowships to Nine Top Experts	32-33
Cotton: An Up-and-Coming Crop	34-35
Prapass Exposes Hanoi's Thai Takeover Bid	36
A Home from Home for Mr. Clarac	37
Learning by Ear Helps Students Master English	38
The Seven Aims of ASPAC	39
ITEMS IN BRIEF	40-44
ON YOUR BOOKSHELF	45

COVER PICTURE:

Much is being done by governments, and agencies to alleviate the precarious day-to-day existence of many farmers in Asian countries as awareness increases of the extent to which agriculture must be relied upon in promoting economic prosperity and national development. This fine study of a Pakistan shepherd boy with a stray lamb that wandered from the flock epitomises the charm and simplicity of rural life that becomes more and more evident as the privations of many who seek their livelihood from the land are gradually eased.

SEATO RECORD features significant events in South-East Asia, as well as activities of the Organization and its member nations. It reports statements which reflect attitudes or policies related to SEATO's role as a defensive organization.

SEATO PROJECTS:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT

●

SEATO REGIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

●

SEATO VEHICLE REBUILD WORKSHOP

●

SEATO SKILLED LABOUR PROJECTS:

Thailand — initiated by SEATO

Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.
Teacher Development Centre, Bangkok.
Vocational Training Centres located in 19 provincial cities.

Pakistan —

SEATO Technical Training Centre, Dacca.
SEATO Technical Training Centre, Karachi.

Philippines —

SEATO Vocational Training Centre, Marikina.

●

SEATO MEDICAL PROJECTS:

Thailand —

SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok.
SEATO Clinical Research Centre, Bangkok.

Pakistan —

Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca.

●

SEATO CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Under-Graduate Scholarships, Post Graduate Scholarships, Fellowships, Professorships.

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Putting the farmer...

HORIZONS dotted with tall chimneys, sky-scraper office blocks, concrete factories, steel pylons and industrial plants—although such visions are beginning to be transformed into reality among the developing nations of South-East Asia, fulfilment is still a long way off.

For the present, the eye must continue to focus upon a sky-line that is flecked with the green shoots of rice paddies, the gold ears of wheat or maize, or the olive stalks of jute plantations. In other words the farmer today still remains virtually the backbone of Asian economies and, in a sense, this issue of the 'SEATO Record' is dedicated to him, containing as it does many features illustrating the multifarious facets of rural problems and development.

The significance of the role of rural people cannot be over-emphasized, for it is ultimately upon their shoulders that responsibility rests for the country's economic prosperity or otherwise. It is a heavy responsibility at the best of times—even an unenviable one, dependent not only upon their skill, but upon the fickleness of the elements of nature. When in addition they have to contend with the insidious and sinister machinations of cadres attempting to compromise their loyalties with alien ideologies the responsibility becomes beset with dangers and frustrations.

The pattern, of course, is an all too familiar one. So is the target, which is always where poverty exists in rural areas and as a consequence the peasants and farmers are those who are first sacrificed upon the altars of Communist ideological, political and military expediency.

The farmers understand little about the push and pull of rival politics and conflicting ideologies, and are usually concerned even less. Drawn into the conflict by those who wish to exploit them; becoming confused, frustrated and disillusioned as a result, the rural people seek guidance and, above all, protection.

It is in this respect that the Government official, the provincial administrator, and the district officer must be there to serve them rather than the other way round.

...in the picture

Fortunately, Asian governments have been quick to take up the challenge posed by subversive and infiltration techniques and are coming to the rescue of farmers and peasants in numerous ways. Of particular significance is the new role national armed forces are playing by moving into the countryside with picks, shovels, hammers and nails as their weapons to fight what has been appropriately called in the Philippines "The Silent War." It is a war in which they are helping the villagers and farmers to improve their livelihood and to provide them with basic facilities and amenities.

In doing so, they are coming to be regarded as 'citizens in uniform', rather than an aloof, unsympathetic race apart, trained only in the art of killing.

CIVIL-MILITARY LINK

President Marcos of the Philippines has long championed the cause of civic action in all its varied forms and has been outspoken too, in expressing the view that SEATO itself could devote more of its resources to, and concentrate more of its attention upon, linking military preparedness with rural development and in particular rural security. Only last January, he urged SEATO to pay greater attention to this new role.

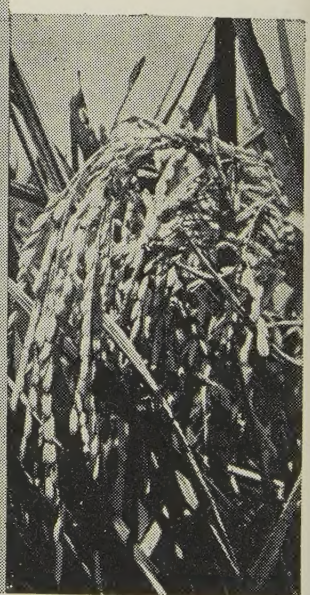
His words have not gone unheeded and a sequel to his visit has been a small but significant seminar held last month in Quezon City, which was sponsored jointly by SEATO and the Philippines Government. Its subject: "Internal Security in Rural Areas". Experts from five member nations attended and the conclusions that emerged after several days of discussions will do much when implemented to bring to the peasant a sense of confidence and re-assurance that he is being welcomed into the community as a friend and an equal, worthy of the privileges, amenities and protection of the society in which he lives, instead of being left out in the cold to fend for himself —as has been the case too often in the past.

OTHER FACTORS

But in attempting to bring new life to rural communities at grass root levels, numerous factors are involved, quite apart from the basic needs including re-apportioning land to the landless peasants. As Mr. Douglas Hyde, the distinguished author and specialist on Communist affairs summed it up so well in his paper delivered at the Seminar:

> "It is equally important that we should attempt to substitute meaningful activity for boredom, idealism for cynicism, discipline and self-reliance for habitual dependence on others, initiative for inertia, relevant action for frustration, dynanism for apathy" ...

As expressed, it is an ideal possibly beyond the reach of governments for a long time to come. That a sincere attempt is being made however, often in the face of innumerable difficulties, reflects a firm determination to give the farmer a secure deal, consistent with the exacting role he is playing in new and evolving societies.



A SECURITY DIET FOR ASIA'S 'SOFT' SPOTS

The Philippines Government in co-operation with the South-East Asia Treaty Organization, recently sponsored a seminar on internal security in rural areas. Held in the Philippines capital, Quezon City, it was arranged to enable experts from various countries to exchange views on the problem of providing effective protection to rural communites from Communist exploitation. The following is a report of the seminar by Max Edralin, SEATO Liaison Officer in the Philippines.

AT the Seminar was an impressive array of experts on rural development and counter-insurgency from Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Republic of Vietnam and the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction.

Seminar Director was the Hon. Jose D. Ingles, then acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Elected permanent chairman was Mr. Maceda, who headed the Philippine delegation participating. Mr. Chung Sub Kim, an official of the Republic of Korea's Bureau of Counter-Communist Activity Affairs, was elected vice-Chairman.

The Seminar opened auspiciously at the Magsaysay Hall of the Social Security System building in the presence of members of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries. A speech by President Ferdinand E. Marcos, read on his behalf by Vice-President Fernando Lopez, highlighted the first plenary session.

President Marcos, always an outspoken and vigorous champion of economic development which he calls 'the first line of defence against subversion', emphasised in his speech the importance of having a full discussion of the problems of the rural areas where, he said, "realistically internal security of any country in South-East Asia begins and ends." He referred to the villages and settlements as the "soft underbelly" of the Asian region.

Mr. Marcos said that in the Philippines the Government was approaching the problem of internal security through a massive programme of economic development.

At the Seminar proper, the effectiveness of present-day approaches to the problem of insuring peace and accelerating progress such as civic action were minutely analyzed. And so were on-going programmes for community uplift in Communist-menaced areas in Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Vice-President of the Philippines Fernando Lopez (at rostrum) reads the keynote address of President Marcos during the opening ceremony of the Seminar. At right are Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, Seminar Director, and Dr. Eckel, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General of SEATO.

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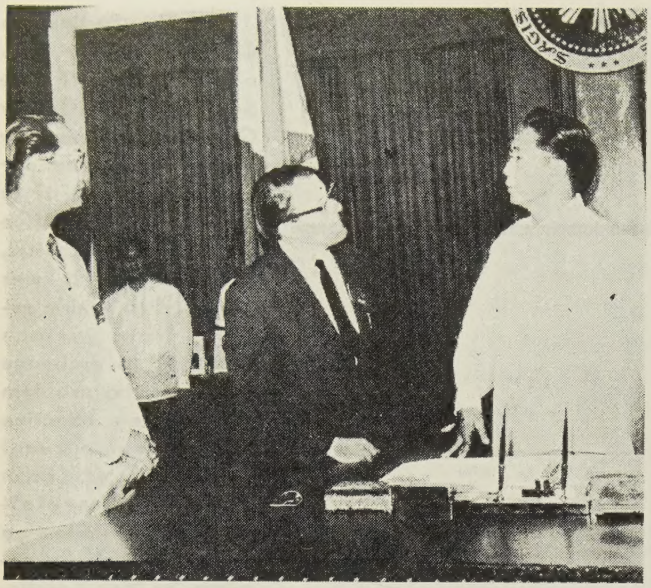
Mr. Dennis Duncanson, one of the U.K. delegates who is a fellow of the Centre for International Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, drew on a wealth of previous experiences in dealing with cases of insurgency in Africa and Asia.



President Marcos received the seminar participants at Malacañang Palace. Pictured here is British lecturer and author, Mr. Douglas Hyde (centre), talking to the President. At left is Secretary of Community Development, Hon. Ernesto Maceda, Permanent Chairman of the seminar.

●

Presenting a contrary view on civic action, he said he did not believe in the effectiveness of setting up new agencies to work side by side with existing ones. If the existing agencies are understaffed or defective, he said, they should be expanded or reformed, not bypassed. To do otherwise, he said, would incur the "risk of deepening confusion."

No duplication

Mr. Duncanson's fears were allayed by the Philippine and Thai representatives who stated that civic action had been found to be effective in their countries. Secretary Maceda pointed out that in the case of the Philippines military personnel involved in civic action, far from usurping or duplicating civilian functions, merely supplemented them.

Mr. Uthayan Utanayaka of Thailand said it was ideal to have military civic action types of operation in less secure areas to protect the action teams from insurgent elements.

Commander Howard N. Kay, Chief of the Civil-Military Relations Section of the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbour, admitted that civic action was "not a panacea for the ills of developing nations," but he commended it as a "concept for using military skills and resources in nation-building."

The Philippines experience in dealing with the Huk problem in Central Luzon and in coping with the needs of the country's 27,000 barrios was cited by Secretary Maceda and Brig. Gen. Rafael Ileto, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Secretary Maceda presented the whole range of the nation-wide community development programme, including its motivation and objectives, while General Ileto described the lessons gained in dealing with the Huk problem. The Philippines had learned from its experience with the Huks that military action to be effective must be accompanied by positive measures to win the confidence of the people in the Government.

Internal problems

The Seminar also heard the internal difficulties being faced by the Republic of Korea most of which arise from the determination of the North Korean Government to take the southern portion by force. The Korean representatives, Messrs. Chung Sup Kim and Noo Soh Park, gave a detailed description of the means with which their government was meeting the problem of continuing infiltration from the North.

The counter-insurgency effort in Thailand gave the participants a view of a country faced with a Mao Tse-Tung type of "war of national liberation." The measures being taken by the Thai government to meet the problem head-on were described by Col. Sennee Chamnianwai of the Communist Suppression Operations Command, a new organization that was formed to con-

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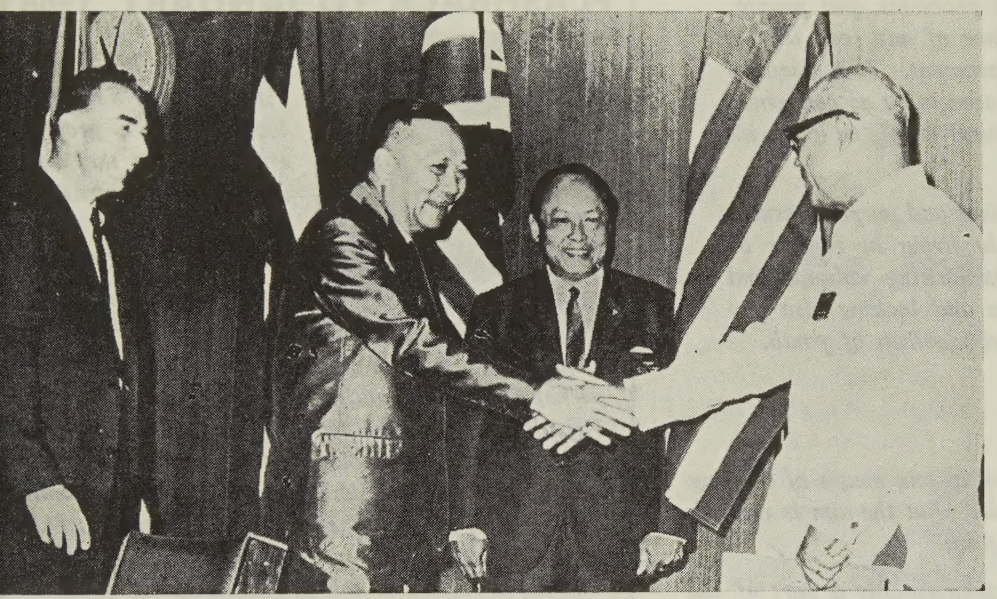
Pictured here is one of the working groups chaired by General Lapus (extreme right). The participants shuttled freely between the two groups depending on their interest in the particular subject matters discussed.

lidate and direct the efforts of all civilian, police and ilitary agencies involved in counter-subversion work.

Mr. Douglas Hyde, former member of the British ommunist Party who has achieved international fame an author and lecturer, analyzed in separate papers e environmental factors that breed security problems d the forms of effective assistance to rural communities.

He identified the factors that give rise to internal curity troubles as hunger for land, youthful idealism, olescent discontent, government abuses, boredom, and glect of racial minorities.

Mr. Hyde cited land reform as an important solu-on to the problem of "land hunger" but he added that is must be regarded only as part of the whole effort revitalize rural life. In economic terms, what is nportant to the farmer is the kind of assistance that



Vice-President Fernando Lopez is pictured here eing greeted by Maj. Gen. Ismael D. Lapuz (retired), eminar Deputy Director, during the opening ceremony. ooking on are Dr. Eckel and Secretary Ingles.

ould enable him to earn more from the sale of his roduce, he said.

Dr. George Tanham, Special Assistant to the U.S. mbassador to Thailand for Counter-Insurgency, de-vered an "overview" of insurgency in rural areas. is opinion was that the success of any counter-insur-ncy programme lies in the ability to make an accurate aluation of the various causes of insurgency and in eing able to make proper allocation of material and uman resources to counter it.

A member of the American delegation, Col. Erwin righam, a research specialist in the U.S. Army, read a aper on the use of the computerized Hamlet Evaluation System in Vietnam. This is a fully automated procedure to evaluate situations and to assess the effectiveness of both development and security plans.

Brig. Gen. Charles W. Ryder Jr., of the U.S. Army, Lt. Col. J.F. McDonagh of the Royal Australian Engineers, Mr. Michael J. Leslie, also of Australia, and Lt. Col. B.R. Poananga of the New Zealand Army, spoke about their own experiences in dealing with specific situations in Vietnam.

General Ryder, who was an assistant division commander in Vietnam before his elevation to the staff of the U.S. Army Pacific Command, emphasized the importance of trained police forces and an efficient warning system in places menaced by insurgents. The regular military forces, he said, should be free from doing security chores so that they could concentrate on strictly military operations.

The discussions, all of which were held behind closed doors, were stimulating, frank and uninhibited.

The lone Vietnamese participant, Mr. Pham Van Quang, Chief of the Planning Section of the Ministry for Rural Reconstruction, spoke about what amounted to "do" and "don't" in the handling of problems peculiar to his beleaguered country.

After the conference room discussions, the participants made a field trip to the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction in Silang, Cavite, where Dr. Domingo Bascara, IIRR Executive Vice-President and a participant in the Seminar, briefed them on endeavours being made to get private business to assist in rural reconstruction work in the Philippines.

In just five days of actual discussions, the Seminar made a detailed critical evaluation of the accumulated years of experience of the individual experts. Each participant in effect took a thorough second look at his country's internal security problems with the companion benefit of discussing the solutions in the light of the experiences of the others.

Although certain details of the discussions must necessarily be kept within the bounds of security they were a valuable contribution to the continuing search for the kind of peace that will permit unhampered domestic progress.

CONCLUSIONS

Some of the more pertinent observations and conclusions reached were:

● *Among environmental factors which most directly contribute to the creation of security problems in rural areas are:*

(a) Land hunger and the urgent need for agrarian reform;

(b) Insufficient interest on the part of central government in rural problems and people, resulting in an absence of any real feeling of identity with Government. It is essential that Government be seen to be as concerned with the welfare of rural people as it is with those in the towns;

(c) The sense of frustrations and purposelessness felt by young people living in remote or stagnant communities lacking cultural and recreational facilities and lacking also any outlet for the natural idealism of youth.

Wider aim

● *Land reform is important as one means of meeting a felt need of the rural people. But the aim is a much wider and deeper agrarian reform.*

Land reform should be seen as only a part of the whole effort to revitalize rural life aimed at ending its monotony, giving the people a way to use their initiatives; it thereby involves them in organized efforts on their own behalf.

● *Officially sponsored projects and programmes are most likely to promote the welfare of the people and contribute to the security of the countryside where there is a conscious aim of making the people feel they have a stake in the community and that Government is concerned about them; and in terms both of rural development as well as security the psychological aspects of all activities are of the greatest possible importance.*

● *The greatest potential single barrier to the proper use of military forces in internal development, is the attitude of some military personnel that the basic development of their nation is outside their proper sphere of activity.*

This reluctance to engage in the mundane tasks, such as performing work which traditionally has been done by persons considered essentially inferior to the professional military man and teaching by personal example, must be overcome if a country's military forces are to be employed in a manner calculated to realize their full internal development potential.

FLASHBACK TO JANUARY, 1968

"Perhaps... it is about time that SEATO looked into a greater emphasis for the economic development of the individual countries in this region.

I have spoken of this repeatedly in the past and I would like to emphasize this today that perhaps more than military preparedness—although I would say that much has been done about military preparedness — we should now look into the greater emphasis of participation of SEATO in the economic development plans of the individual countries. I do not say that SEATO has not done anything about this but I reiterate: the emphasis, I believe, should be on economic development."

President Marcos in a speech before the Council Representatives at SEATO Headquarters.

● *Military civic action is not a panacea for the ills of developing nations. It is a concept for using the military's skills and resources in nation building as an integral part of their training and operations.*

Of equal importance to nation building is the companion benefit of improved civilian-military relations. To be most effective civic action helps people to help themselves.

With this concept in mind, there is little limit, except imagination itself to the forms and benefits which can be derived from military civic action.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ...the market-place

Without an efficient marketing system involving all operations in the movement of agricultural products, the whole pattern and scope of Pakistan's rural development programme would be seriously impaired. In this article Mr. T. Hussain, a marketing expert, describes some of the marketing problems and what is being done to overcome them.

DETERMINED to achieve self-sufficiency in food by 1970, Pakistan has embarked upon a concerted drive to step up production of crops in order to increase the farmer's income and develop exports to earn much-needed foreign exchange.

For success of the production programme, an efficient marketing system has to be organized. The farmer will have no incentive to increase production unless a marketing system is so organized as to assure him of a reasonable price for his products.

Agricultural marketing in its wider sense comprises all the operations involved in the movement of food and raw material from the farm to the consumer. It includes the handling of products at the farm, initial processing, grading and packing, in order to maintain and enhance quality and to avoid wastage.

An important feature

Arrangements to transport produce from the farm to the godowns and for subsequent distribution among consumers constitute an important feature of marketing. Selling and pricing procedures, in terms of dairy charges and institutional fees, tolls, etc., help to determine the extent of the difference between the price paid by the consumer and that received by the producer.

Information services and forecasts relating to the trends of supply and demand are invaluable if production and sales are to be planned to the best marketing advantage.

Storage is another important feature of agricultural marketing together with methods of packing necessary to suit the requirements of ultimate consumers.

An efficient transport system capable of ensuring quick movement of farm produce from the producing areas to market is of equal importance. A few years ago, railways, steamers and country boats were the main means of transport which were inadequate to cope with the growing traffic of agricultural commodities. Moreover, many of the producing areas were unconnected by roads and a railway system. There were great difficulties in the movement of agricultural commodities from such areas to different markets and consequently low prices prevailed in those areas. Government have, therefore, taken up a master plan for the construction of roads linking the producing areas with markets.

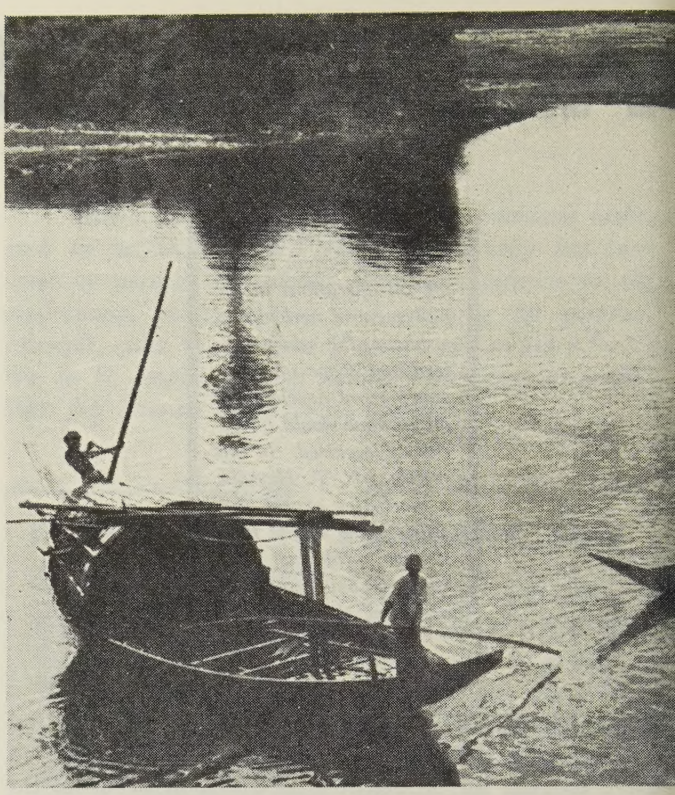
Big improvements

During the Second Plan period, appreciable improvements have been made under the Transport and Communication Sector. All the district headquarters markets and the majority of sub-divisional headquarters markets and all important markets have been connected by metalled roads. Almost all the unions which had no road communication before have now been connected by road. Agricultural commodities are now moving much faster and in larger quantities from the producing areas to urban markets. Large numbers of launches now ply between different points in the riverine areas of the province carrying agricultural commodities from producing areas to consuming centres. The Inland Water Transport Authority has been providing improved landing facilities at the important river ports.

Reliable prices

Farmers need reliable information about the prices of their products in the important markets in order to bargain with the traders. In the absence of such information, they are obliged to accept any price offered by the traders. Provision of market information is, therefore, extremely necessary for increasing the farmer's price and efficient performance of the market.

Under the Market Intelligence Service of the Agricultural Marketing Department, prices of all agricultural and animal products in Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi markets are collected and issued to radio stations at Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi for daily broadcast with a view to keeping the growers and traders



abreast of the prices prevailing in big consuming centres so as to maintain regular and adequate supplies of essential items at these centres.

Availability of radio transistors in the villages has made it possible for the growers to know the daily market prices and to bargain with the traders.

Weekly wholesale prices of about 200 items of agricultural and animal products are also collected from 59 important markets and a weekly bulletin issued to the trade organizations and different government offices.

In concentrated producing areas, glut conditions prevail immediately after harvest because of large-scale sale of the products by the farmers which greatly depresses the prices. It is, therefore, necessary to arrange transportation facilities for diversion of the products from the glut to the deficit areas within the province and for movement of the exportable surplus. This is being arranged in co-operation with the trade and the railway authorities which provide wagons on planned schedules to facilitate movement of the farm products from the producing areas to the consuming centres and ports.

Traders realize a number of charges and make a number of deductions on some plea or other from the sale proceeds of the grower-sellers. Unsatisfactory sale practices such as sale under cover, use of defective and non-standard weights, measures, also account for lower

THE RIVER BARGE

East Pakistan's many rivers and waterways are natural 'highways' for transporting commodities by boat. The old sampan types propelled by poles, pictured here, are now being replaced by modern power driven launches and barges.

The camel-drawn cart, still a familiar scene in some towns and villages of West Pakistan is a traditional mode of transporting agricultural produce to market and is being replaced by motor trucks as more roads are built.

THE CAMEL CART

rices to growers. In rder to eliminate such alpractices, the East akistan Agricultural roduce Markets Regu-tion Act was passed in 964.

The Act provides or regulation of market ractices and market harges, prohibition of nauthorized deductions, uppression of the use f defective and non-andard weights and measures, licensing of market functionaries, and formation of subdivisional market advisory committees consisting of representatives of farmers, trades consumers and government officials to advise on the enforcement of the Act, improvement of the markets and assistance in settlement of disputes between buyers and sellers with the object of safeguarding the interest of the grower-sellers in the markets. Thirty nine markets have so far been brought within the jurisdiction of the Act. All the important markets of the province will be brought within the jurisdiction of the Act by phases.

Wastage avoided

Rapid surveys are conducted on the production, requirement, prices, stock and farm products, and exportable surplus is declared immediately after harvest to enable the exporters to buy quality produce to earn foreign exchange and the farmers to get high prices resulting from purchases for exports.

To avoid wastage of perishable food crops like potatoes, the Government has encouraged establishment of cold-storages. The cold storage industry has been left with the private sector to promote mobilisation of private capital. The present cold storage capacity under operation is more than 20,000 tons. The total capacity sanctioned so far is for over 80,000 tons which is likely to be constructed within a year or so.

Besides, a pilot project on establishment of a number of licensed warehouses providing storage and credit facilities to assess the response of farmers has also been approved for implementation.

Helping people to help themselves

The historic concept of Community Development, first formulated by the Philippines in 1956, has spread to numerous countries both in Asia and other parts of the world. As governments and organizations, including SEATO, have taken up the challenge numerous self-help projects have been launched. Some of these, now underway in Thailand, are described in this article by Alfonso Castro, the Director of SEATO's Community Development Office.

COMMUNITY development as a philosophy, an approach and a programme for economic, social and cultural development is holding its own in Thailand and elsewhere, as a component part of overall efforts to raise the levels of living in the remote regions, and to develop in these areas environmental conditions inimical to the existence and growth of Communist subversive elements.

Along with the Mobile Development Units scheme, the Accelerated Rural Development Programme and the growth-promoting measures of other Thai Government agencies, community development work helps to imbue rural people with a spirit of self-help and pride in their achievements as Thai nationals.

Community development also brings to sensitive areas social infra-structure facilities and services necessary for establishing a speed-up in the mobilization of village resources for development purposes.

Exchange programme

With a pattern of socio-economic development evolving swiftly in the three SEATO Asian member countries, in which community development schemes are playing an increasingly important part, SEATO last year reinstituted an Office of Community Development. This is enabling the Organization to contribute a valuable service both in an active and advisory capacity. Currently under consideration, for example, is an exchange programme for community development experts. Three experts, one each from Thailand, the Philippines and Pakistan would study and discuss community development programmes and approaches with a view to improving techniques and procedures in their respective countries and to suggest priorities for future projects.

This, coupled with plans for an advisory service stemming from field studies and observations, would enable community development administrators and officials to be kept up-to-date with the latest schemes and techniques and to modify and improve their own projects when necessary.

Thailand, for example, has already been quick to utilize the knowledge and experience gained from the Philippines, which originally pioneered community development as a new approach to the problems of rural progress. As a result many schemes are now under way in the Thai countryside.

It was exhilarating to see for example the villagers of Boiden and Banrada of Surin and Buriram provinces, at work constructing the last 8-kilometre strip of a 34-kilometre self-help laterite road that would link 3 tambons and 21 villages of Surin to the railroad town of Krasang in Buriram.

Impressive projects

Likewise, it was inspiring to sit in on a planning and programming meeting of the Development Committee in Tambon Sawai of Surin to hear discussions on future projects such as the construction of a tambon centre, a police station, a school with playground, a market, an electric plant and other self-help projects.

Again the village of Ban Loubog of Tambon Nonlog in Ubon province is proud of its 36-cubic metre elevated water tank which provides water through a pipe distribution system. Yet another village rightly boasts of the results of its "CD WAY" project which has produced a number of women able to cut and sew dresses for members of their families and to establish

Thai girls in an up country village are pictured here planting fruit trees as one of the many self-help community development projects being undertaken in Thailand.

odest dress-making shops. Still another village thusiastically shows visitors its new poultry houses here none existed before.

A few kilometres from the Amnat Charern—hemarat road lies Tambon San Nuk Tha in which milies living in 4 villages located on a low-lying flood ea are to be resettled. This has given to the CD epartment and the other co-operating agencies the pportunity of bringing new and vitalized life to the ttlers and of establishing a viable social organization ore dependent on the talents, initiative and resourfulness of its members towards a better life rather an one paternalistically dependent on the Governent.

Within an irregular triangle bounded by Nakhon anom town in the north, Na Kae in the southwest d That Phanom in the south, the construction of cellent all-weather roads connecting principal comunities of farm-to-market and village laterite roads, irrigation systems of varied sizes, of wells and mmunity water systems, health and community centres and school and religious houses, has not only improved the mobility of Communist suppression forces, but has also led to the mobilization of more and more rural manpower for hastened and expanded production.

Tambons Noi Nong Khem and Kuruku not far from Nakhon Phanom town have under construction water reservoirs that will serve a number of needs. What caught the eye when the latter project was visited was the presence of about a hundred school children who were planting grass on the earth dam to help prevent erosion. Inspired by the head teacher and two women teachers, the boys and girls enthusiastically hauled sod from their village to the dam site, a distance of one kilometre.

Probably the most satisfying sight to proponents of community development is the concrete bridge

under construction in Muban Bau Nam Kham of That Phanom. Barely a kilometre away from the Mekong River, the village is in a sensitive area, a situation that has inspired the villagers to be in better communication with That Phanom town They have, therefore, decided to contribute labour and local materials for constructing a bridge which will be 40 metres long when finished. The aproaches and the pillars had acready been completed at the time the project was visited in May.

And so the self-help work goes on with similar projects being undertaken in other changwats, amphoes, tambons and mubans where CD, ARD and related programmes are participated in by the people.

Noteworthy record

Taking community development alone, the record is noteworthy. Of the country's 71 changwats, 27 were covered by CD activities in 1967. About a sixth of Thailand's population was associated directly or indirectly with CD activities.

Before the end of 1968, however, 13 amphoes of 9 changwats without CD coverage in the past will have been included in the programme. Twenty-one amphoes in 17 provinces will have also been added before the end of the year. All additional amphoes are located in areas where Communist subversive activities have been serious.

It is likely that in the fiscal year 1968—69 another 21 amphoes (12 in the north east, 3 in the south, 6 in the north) will be added to the list of areas to be serviced by the Community Development Department.

The expansion of community development work will no doubt bring more of the essential benefits of life to villagers than ever before.

But the road to success is by no means strewn with roses. It is quite natural that problems should arise from the planning stage to the implementation phase and within the limits of the approved CD programme, financial and trained manpower difficulties arise. Administrative and communication bottlenecks appear and over-enthusiasm sometimes results in over-ambitious plans incapable of being met by indigenous resources.

Problems recognized

The difficulties and shortcumings are fortunately recognized and appreciated by those in the CD Department and the changwat and amphoe officials concerned. Efforts are being made to solve them. But more important than the problems encountered in planning, programming and implementing any community development scheme are new difficulties which begin to emerge as projects grow and expand. For example the village farmer's problems become more complex, vitalized village life demands more public services, and expanded outlook creates hunger for more information.

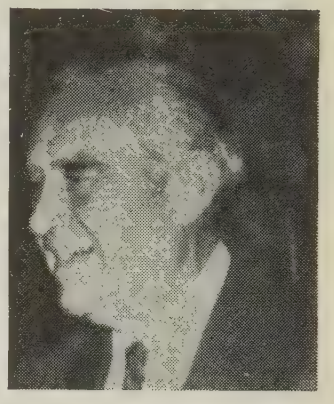
The Community Development Programme, and other associated projects in the north and north-east are removing the lethargy of inaction from among the population and doing away with environmental conditions healthful for Communist elements.

But as in any other developing country that has adopted the approach community development work in Thailand cannot by itself bring about all the desirable goals.

It is reasonably certain, however, that combined with all the other development and welfare projects under way, problems arising out of changed situations can be met and overcome. SEATO, in the role of a co-ordinating and advisory agency, can do much to help in this respect.

With the help of Government bulldozers and other equipment the inhabitants of a village in the North-East are seen here clearing undergrowth to make way for an approach road, as part of a community development project.

Delegate Xuan Thuy turns a deaf ear to fresh Harriman peace plea



AMBASSADOR Averell Harriman recently urged the North Vietnamese to join in a Vietnam peace that would enable all South-East Asia to begin a new a of vast social and economic progress.

Only the continuation of the war is holding back the launching of such a onstructive development period, he pointed out.

"A genuine and just peace can only bring great benefits to all the peoples former Indo-China," he told North Vietnamese Minister Xuan Thuy, at their elfth official session in Paris last month.

"And each of them can take an increasingly important role in the encouraging rocess of regional development in South-East Asia that has already been started. hrough such efforts as the Mekong Valley Development Programme, the entire gion can become one of the most productive in the orld."

His appeal, however, fell on deaf ears, as have ther U.S. proposals to North Vietnam during the lks.

Mr. Harriman reminded Xuan Thuy of what appened in Europe after the Second World War. merica, together with its allies and former enemies, ined through the American-financed Marshall Plan to ase the scars of war and rebuild Europe's shattered conomies — an initiative described by Winston Chur- ill as "the most unsordid act in history." He minded the Hanoi representative that the same was ue in Asia after the Pacific war.

Work with us'

"The same can be true in Vietnam and in South- ast Asia," he said, "if you will work with us to end e present conflict and then move on to the serious usiness of peace and reconciliation."

He reminded Xuan Thuy that, in announcing on larch 31 the sharp curtailment of American bombing f North Vietnam that had brought about the Paris conversations, President Johnson repeated his promise made more than three years ago of vast effort to improve conditions of life in South-East Asia.

Ambassador Harriman pointed out that, pending unification, the two parts of Vietnam would benefit greatly by immediate agreement on the free flow of goods, by technical co-operation and cultural exchanges and by the visits of people back and forth. He foresaw a return of genuine peace to neighbouring Laos and the extension of the benefits of peaceful co-operation to Cambodia.

Cooperative programmes for primary, advanced and technical education have already begun in South-East Asia, he noted, and a number of the region's nations already are working together to improve communications and transportation. They are sharing technical know-how in raising food production.

Asian institutions ready to undertake increasingly challenging tasks "now exist and are working actively," he reminded Xuan Thuy.

"Choose the path of peace," he said. "Then we can work together for progress — and the sooner the better."

NO POLICY CHANGES

— *says Gorton*

There has been no change in Australia's interest in, or desire to co-operate with Asian countries, the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton, said in a report to the nation last month after his Asian tour.

Mr. Gorton was speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra about his 12-day visit to Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

One of the purposes of his visit, he said, was to demonstrate that the policy furthered so well by his predecessor, Mr. Holt, was a continuing policy of the Australian Government and the Australian people.

The Prime Minister held extended talks with the President of South Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen van Thieu, the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman, and the President of Indonesia, General Suharto.

Background of change

Mr. Gorton told the National Press Club that his visit was made against an international background of change. There was first the attempt of the President of the United States to bring North Viet-Nam to the conference table to see whether a just and honourable peace could be negotiated.

Secondly, there had been a fundamental change in the basis of Australia's strategic planning caused not only by the accelerated British withdrawal from the Malaysia-Singapore area, but also uncertainty as to when, and how the British would contribute to the defence and stability of the region after their withdrawal.

"Clearly, a concept of forward defence by troops stationed outside Australia, valid when based upon participation with local forces and the forces of a major power, needed minute examination when the forces of that major power were to be withdrawn and the circumstances of their re-entry were unknown," he said.

Mr. Gorton said that a new strategic appreciation was being made by the Defence Committee, taking into account these fundamental changes.

Mr. Gorton said the fighting in Vietnam was as fierce and cruel as ever.

"I see no reason for any change in Australia's attitude to this struggle," Mr. Gorton said. "We believe the Americans are right to seek for the South Vietnamese the right to elect their own government, to carry out that election free from invasion, terrorism or threat and to have such decision as they may make respected by all.

The will to continue

"We believe we have a stake in demonstrating that armed aggression must not succeed. We believe we now contribute sufficient forces from Australia to carry out our duty in this respect, and we have the will to continue this contribution in concert with our allies until the political objective which the military operations are aimed at is achieved."

The Prime Minister said that the Paris talks had regrettably made no discernible progress. (AIS)

THANAT KHOMAN PUTS THE QUESTION:

A peaceful Peking: is it possible?

"IF in the future Communist China, North Vietnam and North Korea were to indicate some kind of a changed policy and renounce a policy of expansion and are willing to work with non-Communist nations in Asia," Thailand's Foreign Minister, Mr. Thanat Khoman, would "certainly recommend the United States to give its support to Communist China and other Communist regimes in Asia."

Mr. Khoman made this point while speaking recently to staff assistants of United States Senators, a report of which was carried by the Congressional Record.

Mr. Khoman was reported as saying that as long as these regimes continued their policy of forceful expansion, Thailand would not be in favour of seeing the US supporting them.

Opposed to coalition

In answer to a question by a staff assistant, Mr. Khoman reaffirmed the view that Thailand would be opposed to a Laos-type coalition government being imposed on South Vietnam but would not be opposed to self-determination by which such a government might be created.

However, he added, "one thing that I know is that North Vietnam will resist most strongly an internationally supervised election—they want an election in the South but not in the North.

"If North and South Vietnam were to agree to an impartial election, well-observed and well-conducted, I think that will be a boon to all of us."

Mr. Khoman warned that the North Vietnamese, "having come to the realisation that the possibility of their winning a military victory has gone, might use their various resources, especially propaganda resources, playing on the emotion and the dissension in various quarters in the world to snatch a political victory or a diplomatic victory at the conference table."

Sites for peace talks

Commenting on speculation that North Vietnam could be really independent of Communist China, the Foreign Minister noted that Hanoi rejected some places in Asia — New Delhi, Djakarta, Rangoon — as possible sites for the peace talks, adding that he was told that these places were rejected "out of deference to Communist China's dislike for the governments in those countries."

He also dismissed speculation that North Vietnam could become a second Yugoslavia: "I think those who made such a suggestion must have forgotten to look at a map. Yugoslavia is separated by many countries from Moscow, from the Soviet Union, while North Vietnam has a long common border with Communist China.

"How can a country which has a long common border and has long been under the shadow of Communist China become a Yugoslavia?"

Thanat added: "It is my personal opinion that the US has a real chance to turn the allegedly bad situation of Vietnam into a historic situation, a historic attempt to settle not only the war in Vietnam but to bring about a general settlement for the whole of Asia....

"We in our part of the world have been doing everything we can to start a kind of nucleus for general settlement in Asia, by banding together in the Asia and Pacific Council or the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

"We are planting the seeds of future settlement in Asia. We keep in mind the possibility of having, say, North Vietnam or, perhaps, Communist China or North Korea — I mean, all of the Communist regimes in Asia — join us, if they are willing to renounce their policy of forceful expansion.

"We are willing to consider working with them for a general settlement in Asia. We have not lost sight at all of the future and ultimate solution. The war in Vietnam is only a first step.

"If we can settle that satisfactorily and not by camouflaged surrender to the Communists or by a makeshift solution, then we have a real chance to bring about a long-lasting and general comprehensive settlement in Asia," Mr. Khoman said.

SIR NEIL PUTS U.K. WITHDRAWAL IN PERSPECTIVE

SPEAKING at a weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club of Bangkok South, the British Ambassador, to Thailand, Sir Neil Pritchard, said two major policy decisions by the British Government have naturally and rightly raised great interest in the last few months. These are the devaluation of last November and the decision announced last January to withdraw British forces from Malaysia and Singapore by the end of 1971.

"These are in fact two aspects of a single fundamental issue facing the British Government and people— that is the importance of getting our economy and in particular our balance of payments on to a thoroughly firm and healthy basis," Sir Neil said.

Regarding Britain's withdrawal from military bases in Malaysia and Singapore, Sir Neil said it was by no means a policy of desertion. "We should be acting wholly irresponsibly if we did that. Our withdrawal will not be completed until the end of 1971— that is in three and a half years' time. Thus there is an opportunity to sort out how best to ensure a smooth and secure transition.

"We in Britain understand how very important it is that our withdrawal should not lead to instability and insecurity in this part of the world and we are doing a number of things which we believe will contribute very significantly to continued stability in the area.

"First", the Ambassador continued, "the process of close consultations with our Commonwealth allies will continue; secondly we have announced that we shall continue training and exercising British forces in the area after 1971; thirdly, our general capabilities based in Europe will be such that we can deploy forces in the area if the need should arise; fourthly we are offering to Malaysia and Singapore entirely free of charge many of our existing defence lands and fixed assets—and they are substantial—which are required by Malaysia and Singapore for defence or economic purposes; and fifthly we have offered to Malaysia and Singapore large scale economic assistance to help them keep their own economies on an even keel. This economic assistance will total £75 million—not I think an insubstantial sum," Sir Neil added. (BIS)

N. Zealand must take a second look at her role in Asia

– SAYS HOLYOAKE

IN a recent review of foreign affairs over the past year, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Keith Holyoake, said that events directly affecting his country had been dominated by two developments, namely the planned military withdrawal by the United Kingdom from the area, and the first steps being taken on the road to a negotiated settlement in Vietnam.

About Vietnam, Mr. Holyoake said that the peak of enemy activity had been reached during the Tet offensive.

Undeniably, the intensity of the attacks and the disorder they caused imposed an unwelcome setback on Allied progress and programmes in the South. In political, military, and psychological terms, the Communist forces achieved positive, though not permanent, advantages. They interrupted the process of pacification, diminished Government control and authority in some country areas, and added to the dimensions of the problem created by the flight of refugees to Allied protection.

"All this," added Mr. Holyoake, "was disappointing to the Allied cause, but its significance should not be exaggerated." By the time the period under review had ended, the worst effects of the Tet offensive had been redressed and it was possible, once again, to see the achievements of the South Vietnamese Government and their Allies in their full perspective. These included the building up of the South Vietnamese armed forces, the establishment of a substantial measure of military superiority over the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, the holding of elections at national, provincial, and local level, the drawing up of a constitution, and the broadening of the basis of civilian participation in the processes of government. Damaging though the Tet offensive was, Mr. Holyoake said that it in fact achieved none of the things it set out to accomplish. There were no mass defections and no popular uprisings; no towns were held; the South Vietnamese army performed with skill and resolution and the Government continued to function.

Aims unimpaired

Above all, the great majority of the people of South Vietnam made it even more apparent than before that, however beset, they remained unwilling to accept the imposition of a Communist regime. The basic purposes for which the Allied forces have fought in Vietnam "have thus remained unimpaired.

"Great issues affecting the future of South-East Asia hang still upon the outcome of the Vietnam struggle. I do not contend that the fortunes of all the independent countries of the region will automatically

be determined by that conflict. But, without question, the fighting there will, in the long run, do much to establish whether the aims and methods of a particularly militant and oppressive brand of communism are to prevail more widely," the Prime Minister said.

"More immediately, the resistance in Vietnam helps the other countries of South-East Asia in their efforts to create, individually and together, positions of confidence on the basis of which internal development can proceed and external pressure and interference may be withstood.

In this sense, the significance of the Allied actions in Vietnam is widely understood in South-East Asia. I place no weight on the argument that because of its participation in the Vietnam fighting, New Zealand risks losing respect or standing in Asia. From my contacts with South-East Asian leaders, I am convinced that among them there is a very clear and direct awareness of all that Allied efforts in Vietnam have meant for the safety and future of the region. And I am convinced that New Zealand's part in these efforts is accepted and appreciated.

"It would be idle to contend that the outlook in South-East Asia is uniformly favourable. But there have been many encouraging developments and I would cite particularly the extension of regional co-operation, Indonesia's reconciliation with Singapore and Malaysia, the formation of ASEAN, the waning persuasiveness of Communist China's example, and the energy and resolution with which some South-East Asian countries are tackling the problems of development." What was most needed now was time to strengthen local confidence and solidarity still further, said Mr. Holyoake.

Mr. Holyoake went on to say that Britain's impending withdrawal marked for New Zealand a time for reappraisal of its international position, almost as profound as that made necessary by the fall of Singapore in 1942. "It makes necessary a searching re-examination of New Zealand's policies in South-East Asia, so many of which have depended for their full effect on their being carried out in close association with Britain. It gives new emphasis to the trend towards closer relations and co-operation with Australia that has become so conspicuous and essential a feature of our recent international activity. It increases the importance of New Zealand's relationship with the United States. And it changes the perspective within which the broad pattern of New Zealand's continuing ties with Britain must now be examined."

Mr. Holyoake said at this stage however, it was impossible, to indicate what the outcome would be of this far reaching appraisal.

S.E. Asia makes good progress

—says *Bundy*

THE United States does not intend to make any changes in its policies for South-East Asia even though the area is making remarkable progress on its own, U.S. Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, William P. Bundy, said at a recent press conference in Bangkok during a stopover while en route to Paris. While in Bangkok Mr. Bundy met Thailand's Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman, Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn, Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya and Minister of National Development Pote Sarasin.

Mr. Bundy disavowed a policeman's role for the United States in South-East Asia. "That is not a particularly useful slogan," he said. "Our involvement is on the basis of national interest. It starts with treaty commitments as far as they can be defined and goes beyond to a concern to help out where we are wanted in areas of economic and social development.

Mr. Bundy said that the United States was extremely impressed with the progress South-East Asia was making on its own. "They have done things that neither we nor they would have ever thought possible ten years ago," he said. "There is a spirit of confidence here, a feeling of undeniable progress."

Concerning the United States' role in Thailand, Mr. Bundy strongly agreed with repeated statements by Thai leaders that the country could handle its problems by itself. "We are not directly involved here in any way," he said. "Of course we have our SEATO commitment which we would honour in case of an armed attack, but internal problems are a matter for them."

SPREADING THE SPOKEN WORD...

. . . AND THE VISUAL IMAGE, TOO

SOUTH-EAST Asia Treaty Organization Acting Secretary-General, Mr. David A. Wraight, recently handed over US $ 55,500 worth of equipment as part of a "crash programme" to bolster the Royal Thai Government's Communist Suppression Operations Command information programme.

Lt. Gen. Saiyud Kerdpon, Director of Operations and Co-ordination Centre, CSOC, said the gift would vastly improve CSOC's information activities.

The gift comprised six jeeps donated by Australia and audio-visual aids, including projectors, amplifiers and tape recorders, from the United States. The jeeps are valued at US$ 18,000 and the audio-visual equipment at US$37,500.

A Buddhist priest is pictured here sprinkling holy water on some of the equipment in a traditional Thai blessing ceremony.

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The audio-visual aids will be housed in the jeeps which will then be self-contained travelling information units.

The American Ambassador, Mr. Leonard Unger (right), is pictured here examining speakers and projectors, part of the gift from the United States to the Thai Government's Communist Suppression Operations Command through a SEATO aid programme.

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In accepting the gifts, the Assistant CSOC Commander, General Kris Srivara, said that it was proposed that the mobile information units would act as front-line messengers of the national information and psychological structure which was at present before the Cabinet for approval.

After the presentation, a Buddhist priest in a traditional Thai ceremony invoked blessings on the jeeps and media apparatus to protect them from harm.

Among the official guests at the handing over ceremony. which took place at CSOC Headquarters in Bangkok, were the Australian Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. D.W. McNicol and the United States Ambassador, Mr. Leonard Unger.

Making the presentation Mr. Wraight said that the cause that brought such diverse countries as Thailand, Australia and the United States together on this occasion was the love of freedom, symbolized by the Manila Treaty and the SEATO shield of freedom.

"The eight member governments of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization recognize that today free institutions are under attack," he said. "They recognize that free institutions are worth defending; they recognize that this part of the world is bearing the brunt of the free world's stand for freedom and the right to self-determination. The heat of the battle is greatest here.

"Today," Mr. Wraight added, "we hand over equipment which in the skilled hands of CSOC experts will become valuable tools in the battle for men's and women's hearts and minds being waged in this country. We are handing over equipment—valuable but nonetheless impotent without skilled operators to master it.

"The Thai Government through CSOC on the other hand, because it can match this gift with skilled operators, is in fact receiving something which

Mr. David A. Wraight, acting Secretary-General of SEATO, is seen here greeting General Kris Srivara, Assistant CSOC Commander at the ceremony on July 12, at which Jeeps and audio-visual equipment to the value of US$ 55,500 were presented by Australia and the U.S. to the Thai Government's Communist Suppression Operations Command.

in its hands will be a powerful tool in the pursuit of justice and freedom.

"So in this equipment, you receive an aid to freedom. This will help in a basic vital function of Government—that is the function of 'Government to People' communication; telling the people in remote parts what government is all about and of its interest in their well-being," added Mr. Wraight.

He said these mobile information units were dedicated to the doctrine of truth, and would therefore help separate truth from falsehood. They would spread truth—the friend and weapon of freedom, said Mr. Wraight.

The Australian Ambassador, Mr. D.W. McNicol (right) watches CSOC Assistant Commander, General Kris Sriyara, fix good-luck emblems to the jeeps presented by Australia. Presiding at the presentation ceremony, which included audio-visual equipment from the United States, the acting Secretary-General of SEATO, Mr. David A. Wraight, said the mobile information equipment was dedicated to the doctrine of truth

In his speech General Saiyud said the Communists are threatening the peace and security of the nation by trying to disrupt and incite insurgency among the rural population. They have infiltrated weapons and Communist terrorist cadres to initiate and support the pockets of insurgency the government was currently engaged in suppressing.

"CSOC was established by the Government in December 1965 with the mission of destroying the Communist plan of aggression by active search and destroy operations and developing effective village security, development and information programmes to secure the peace. One of the most important aspects of accomplishing this mission is the information programme to effectively establish communication and good understanding between government and people. These activities will be vastly improved by the Australia and United States SEATO gifts."

General Kris welcomed the gifts as an "example of mutual concern and mutual help in combatting a common enemy, the Communists."

"With the increasing efforts of the Communists to infiltrate and subvert Thailand", said General Kris, "this equipment is of strategic importance to our national information-psychological programme."

The vehicles and equipment will be used by civilian personnel hired and recruited by CSOC and assigned to operate in critical areas.

These new civilian teams will augment the field information capability of CSOC, which at present has 13 military teams deployed in the field

It is the intention that both these civilian and military teams will be so used as to provide an increased channel of communication between citizen and government.

Udom Kayankarnnawee, one of the 35 graduates, is shown receiving his certificate from Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya.

MEN AND THEIR MACHINES

THIRTY-FIVE men graduated from Thailand's Military Technical Training School on June 21, in a ceremony presided over by Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chief of Staff, Supreme Command.

Unlike their fellow graduates in previous years who were assigned to departments and workshops of the Armed Forces and of the Ministry of Defence, all thirty-five graduates will be undergoing further training to become qualified helicopter mechanics in the Royal Air Force, according to the report of Air Vice-Marshal Chamras Veenakupta, the school's Commandant, who explained this move as being in response to an "urgent demand."

MTTS Trainees help keep helic

Another point distinguishing this year's graduation from those of the past was its timing. The School, established in 1959 as an Australian-Thai project under the auspices of SEATO, had until 1965 held its graduation in September and

35 graduates will put new skills to the test

egun its academic year on SEATO Day, September 8. This ad meant a lapse of four months following the beginning of he academic year as designated by the Ministry of Education nd observed by most educational institutions. As a result he School tended to get students who had been unable to gain dmission elsewhere. In an effort to make the School avail-ble to the best students during the same entrance period as ther institutions it was decided to adopt the general practice f beginning the academic year in May.

OUR CATEGORIES

The 35-strong graduation class brought the number of raduates so far to 399. Training provided by the School overs four specialized categories of engineering trades in the hree-year curriculum: general fitting, machining, metal-smithing nd electrical fitting. It is the only school of its kind in hailand.

Although, formally speaking, the school is now no longer joint Thai-Australian project under SEATO, the Australian Government has continued to give assistance both in the form f equipment and in making it possible for instructors to re-eive further academic and practical training in Australia. t present seven instructors from the School are in Australia nder this assistance plan.

airborne

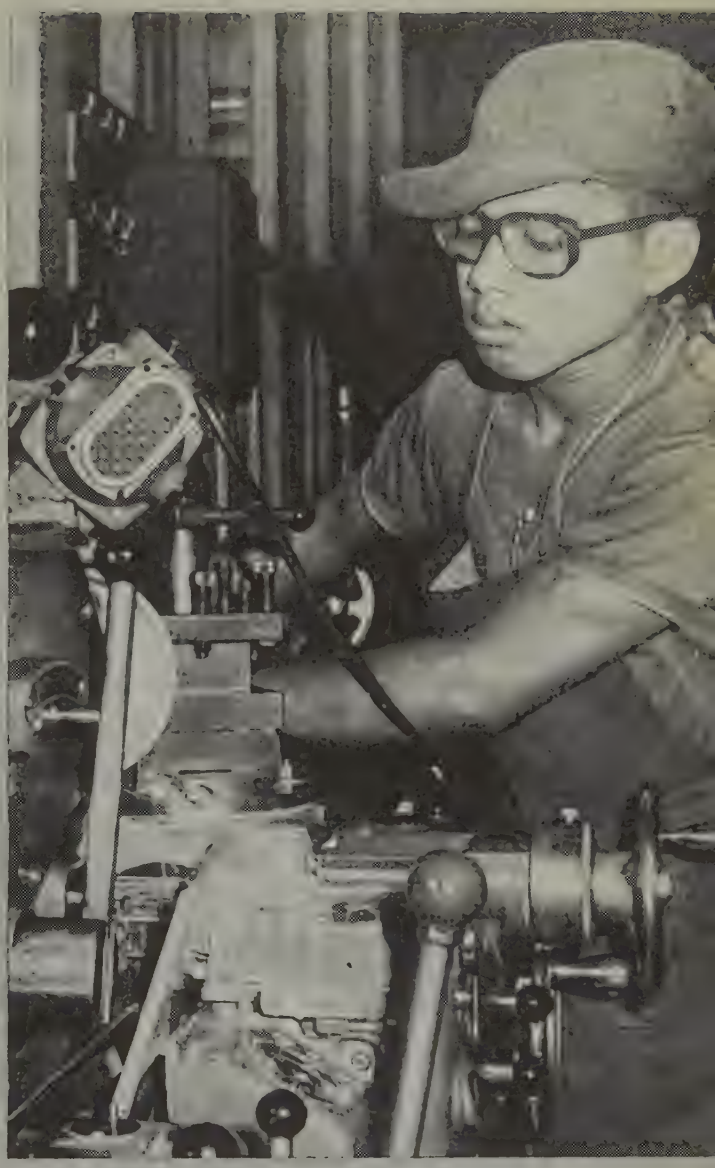
The School, in other words, "continues to grow as a symbol of the ties of friendship and co-operation that bind the SEATO nations," as Secretary-General Jesus M. Vargas put it in his speech at the ceremony.

He also pointed out that apprentice training in the ocations such as that which is offered in this School, contri-utes to the advancement of science and technology in this egion and that it helps "in a positive way, although on an dmittedly modest scale, to meet the complex and still growing equirements of the modern age."

VITAL ROLE

General Vargas reminded the graduating class that their chool plays a pivotal part in the conduct of affairs of the oyal Thai Armed Forces which, in turn, have a vital role to lay in the conduct of the national life, such as in protecting eedom and safe-guarding the nation, especially in these ritical times when Communist elements in some parts of the ountry have "displayed their determination to defy fully-onstituted Governmental authority, to subvert the nation, and ventually to seize power..."

In this connection, General Vargas noted that "fortuna-ly for this country and for the free world, the Royal Thai overnment through its police and armed forces has instituted, nd continues to pursue, vigorous and effective counter-measures against those in this country who would covet or destroy our cherished free way of life."



A trainee mechanic is seen here operating one of modern power lathes in the machine shop.

He warned the graduating class against lowering their guard at this juncture, in the wake of the new freedom ushered in by the newly promulgated Constitution, as it was a well-known forte of the Communists to exploit civil liberties for their own ends, "demeaning freedom in the name of freedom"

CIVIC ACTION

A key ro

THAILAND'S Mobile Development Units have their main headquarters in Bangkok, but a large number of citizens in the Capital, pre-occupied as they are with strictly urban activities, have only the vaguest notion, if at all, of what these units are about. Not so their fellow citizens in certain remote areas of Thailand whose day-to-day existence has been, and is being, transformed by the manifold projects being carried out by members of these MDU teams.

Take the old man, for instance, who had never ridden in anything but an ox-cart, then suddenly found himself being rushed to a hospital in a helicopter. He said the excitement nearly cured him of his agonizing stomach ache (for which he was later operated on successfully).

He had never been to a hospital either—never knew such a place existed. So it was a double excitement, and all due to the MDU teams.

To penetrate hitherto inaccessible or bypassed areas of the country, bringing to people the benefits of health, schooling, farming methods, knowledge of the outside world which often means the next village, or town, a market to stimulate

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Many army doctors, as well as civilian ones, are helping to improve health in rural areas.

An elderly villager in Ubon Province is pictured here being examined by a Royal Thai Army doctor working with one of the Mobile Development Units in the area.

r the armed forces in areas off the beaten track

greater production or to absorb surplus produce—hese are some of the practical aims of the MDUs. The old man and the helicopter is just one example of the more dramatic incidents resulting from their work.

More mundane changes would include village children going off to school for the first time because t had never been possible to make the journey until he MDU came to build one in their midst; and housewives whose daily chores have been automatically evised by the advent of an MDU-built well within walking distance from their homes.

More units soon

Twenty Mobile Development Units have been established in the North East, North, South, and West-central provinces of Thailand since the programme was launched in 1962 as part of the country's National Security Command, and it is expected that by the end of this year two more will have been set up

The 20th unit was designated for the changwat or province of Rajburi, whose seat of administration comprises some of the most under-developed districts (amphoes) in the country.

Once in Rajburi the unit was assisted by local administrative and other officials concerned in setting up a base of operation at Ban Baw in Chombung and from here the unit has been sending its multi-action teams to work in the villages of the five districts selected for immediate assistance, Chombung included

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A border patrol police helicopter comes to the rescue of an old man found seriously ill in an outlying village to take him to hospital for an operation.

CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS BY THE ROYAL THAI ARMY ARE UNDERTAKEN MAINLY THROUGH MOBILE DEVELOPMENT UNITS — OR MDUs AS THEY ARE CALLED — IN CONJUNCTION WITH TEAMS OF GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL, HEALTH AND SOCIAL EXPERTS. THE MDU's OPERATE UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMAND HEADED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE THAI ARMED FORCES, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE CHULLASAPYA.

Farming, cooperatives, irrigation, provision of potable water, roadbuilding. vocational promotion, cottage industries, community development, education, dissemination of information, public facilities — these are the main categories of the assistance rendered. At the same time the most important guideline for the teams in Rajaburi as elsewhere, is the needs and problems peculiar to each location.

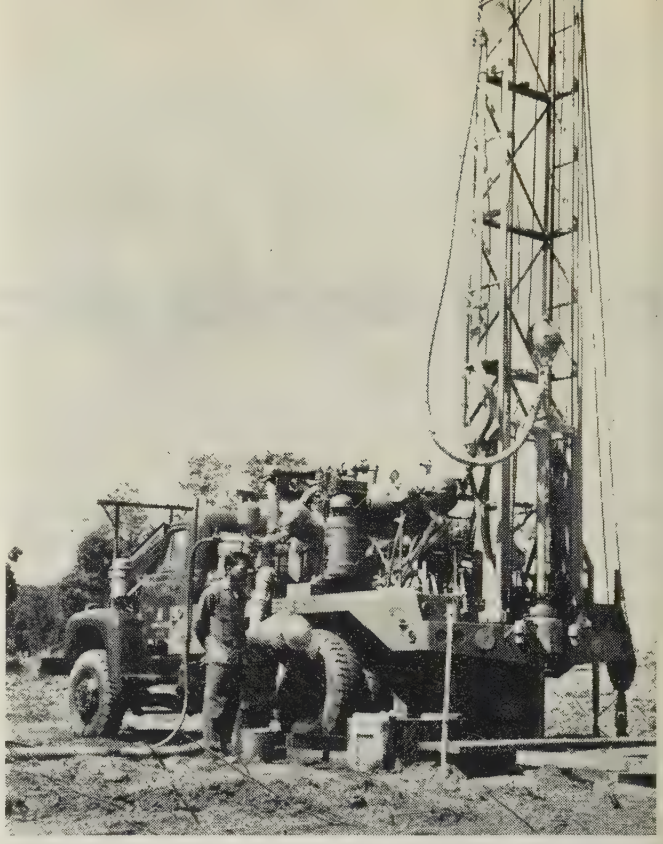
Since the MDU programme began, it has constructed more than 700 wells, built 230 new schools, improved over 900 existing schools, constructed more than 50 health stations and midwifery centres, and given medical treatment or innoculations to over one million people, the majority of whom had never had any contact with modern medicine before, even at the most fundamental level.

More roads

In addition, the sixties have been a decade of road-building for Thailand, and the MDU's significant contribution has increased the mobility of millions of villagers.

Another boost for the expansion of MDU work was the recently signed Thai-US agreement on additional US support valued at $ 550,000 (11 million baht), to be used for purchasing additional tractors, graders, and other equipment for road-building and construction projects. It will also provide radios for communications, support training of MDU equipment operators, and supply equipment for an MDU project to stimulate livestock production and increase the output of protein-rich foods.

American assistance to the MDU programme has totalled over $5 million since its inception.



Sinking a new well at Kokkoo Village, Loey Province, is this mobile water boring vehicle operated by an MDU team.

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The MDU operations have been described as civic action with a difference. The difference lies in the wide scope of its activities, in the vast areas in which these activities are taking place and in the continuity or long-term aspect of the work as a whole.

Nevertheless, the single most prominent feature that has emerged is the increasingly close relationship between the men in uniform and the people in ordinary peasant clothes. Both have become aware that in this task of bringing together the countryside and the towns they need one another's help and co-operation.

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Air Chief Marshal Dawee, Chief of Staff, Supreme Command, is pictured here (left) with other army officers inspecting a new communal well constructed by an MDU team for a village in Nakorn Panom.

U.S. General takes over as Chief M.P.O.

General Maroun is pictured above (right) delivering his acceptance speech during the ceremony held in front of SEATO Headquarters. General Abhichart is standing second from the right.

SEATO CEREMONY MARKS OCCASION

MAJOR General Autrey J. Maroun, of the United States Army took over his new appointment as Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office from Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong early last month.

An official changeover ceremony was held in front of SEATO Headquarters which was attended by all members of the Military Planning Office. Also present was Mr. David A. Wraight, SEATO Deputy Secretary-General, who acted on behalf of General Vargas, at present on leave.

General Maroun becomes the seventh Chief of the Military Planning Office and will hold the position for two years

In his departure speech General Abhichart thanked all Military Planning Office personnel for their co-operation and spontaneous assistance in the task of "preparing in peace the plans that would be needed in time of war". He added that even though the Military Planning Office had made considerable progress during the past two years a lot more remains to be done. He felt sure that much would be accomplished under the leadership of General Maroun.

In his take-over address General Maroun said he was confident that the high standard of work which has enabled the Organization to do so much for the cause of peace throughout the Treaty Area would continue.

General Abhichart is returning to Supreme Command Headquarters in Bangkok where he will receive a new assignment.

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In the picture below Gen. Maroun and Gen. Abhichart shake hands at the conclusion of the ceremony.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Four ships of the British Royal Navy visited Bangkok on August 16 after having taken part in a joint minesweeping exercise with units of the United States Navy and the Royal Thai Navy off Sattahip. The exercises were under the command of Rear Admiral Porn Pandhusap, RTN.

The four ships were H.M.S. Manxman, H.M.S. Houghton, H.M.S. Dartington, and H.M.S. Maxton.

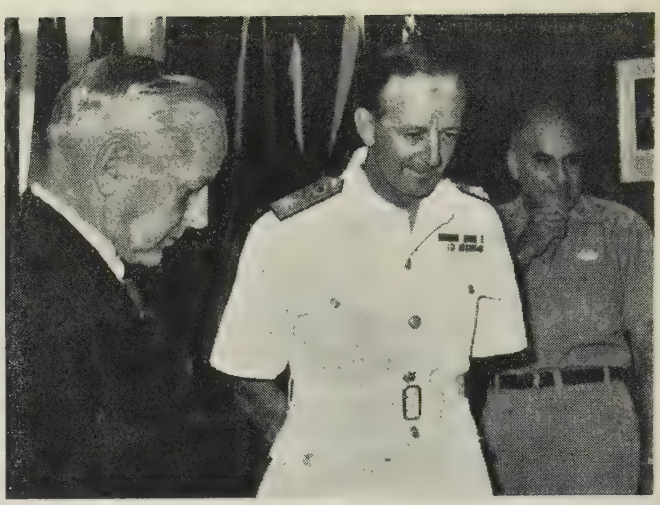
Information officer flies in

Wing Commander H.K. Griffiths, of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, took over the post of the new SEATO Deputy Director (Military) Public Information Office from Major Prasit Prabhant, of the Royal Thai Army, on August 1.

Wing Commander Griffiths was born in Auckland in 1928. Following experience as a journalist with several New Zealand and Australian newspapers, he served with the New Zealand Army in Korea.

On return to New Zealand, Wing Commander Griffiths reverted to his civilian journalist career but attained the rank of Major in the Territorial Force. In 1955 he joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force as a public relations officer. He was later appointed personal staff officer to the Chief of Air Staff. His last position before coming to Bangkok was Director of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence.

In the picture on the right Wing Cdr. Griffiths, his wife and three children, are seen being welcomed at Don Muang Airport by Mr. M.J. Taylor, SEATO Deputy Director Public Information Office (left), and Major Prasit Prabhant (right).



ADMIRAL PAYS VISIT TO SEATO

Among the distinguished visitors to SEATO has been Rear-Admiral E B. Ashmore, Flag Officer, Second in Command, Far East Fleet, shown above in conversation with Mr. D. A. Wraight (left), Acting Secretary-General of SEATO and Maj. Gen. Autrey Maroun (right) Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office.

Rear Admiral Ashmore was paying a five day goodwill visit to Bangkok from 15 to 20 July, flying his flag in HMS Defender and accompanied by HMS Puma and HMNZS Otago. The the vessels were berthed at Klong Toey and were open to visitors.

NEW U.K. MILITARY ADVISER

Captain R.E. Wilson, of the Royal Navy, recently assumed his new appointment as SEATO Military Adviser's Representative for the United Kingdom, succeeding Colonel C.H.M. Toye, late Royal Artillery. The Colonel is to be appointed Defence Attache to the UK Delegation to the United Nations in January 1969.

Captain Wilson is pictured on the right being briefed by Col. Toye at SEATO Headquarters.

During the Second World War, Capt. Wilson served in East Africa, Ceylon, India and Burma. Captain Wilson also participated in the Korean War as a close air support pilot. He then converted to helicopters and during the Malayan Emergency was senior pilot in an RN helicopter squadron. It was while serving in Malaya that he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. His last position before joining SEATO was Commander (Air) in HMS Albion.

MAROUN, McNICOL MEET

Shortly after his arrival in Thailand, the incoming Chief, Military Planning Office, SEATO, Major-General Autrey J. Maroun, paid a courtesy call on the Australian Ambassador, Mr. D.W. McNicol, They are pictured below, left, in the Ambassador's office together with the retiring Chief, Military Planning Office, Major-General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong (left) and Captain R.J. Scrivenor, RAN, Australian Military Adviser's Representative, SEATO. (AIS)

Top post for Filipino General

General Manuel T. Yan, of the Philippines, recently appointed as Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, is also concurrently designated as Philippines Military Adviser to SEATO.

He succeeds General Segundo P. Velasco who has retired from the service.

General Yan is a veteran of World War II and was taken prisoner during the surrender of Bataan in 1942. Since the war Gen. Yan has held several key positions and before assuming his new appointment, he was Vice-Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and also Chief of the Philippines Constabulary (Philippines National Police).

Another step forward in research programme

Three Thai experts to join SEATO Agricultural project

Mr. D. Rhind is shown (right) in Khon Kaen, N.E. Thailand, During his recent tour of the country, discussing cultivation of beans with Dr. Roy Sigafus, an expert from the University of Kentucky in America.

THREE Thai experts have been appointed to assist in implementing the SEATO Agricultural Research Project. Together with four newly appointed consultants from the United Kingdom this brings the total strength to seven experts, excluding Mr. D. Rhind, the U.K. appointed project co-ordinator who has already completed preliminary surveys in the three Asian member nations — Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines.

Though not yet confirmed, Pakistan and the Philippines are also expected to appoint experts to assist in the project. The three Thai consultants, who will be going to Dacca in the near future are: Dr. Sanga Sabhasri, lecturer in the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University; Prince Penisri Chakrabandu, Director-General of the Agricultural Department, Ministry of Agriculture; and Mr. Porn Resanontha, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Extension, Kasetsart University.

Meanwhile Mr. Rhind returned to Bangkok early in July, after spending a month in the Philippines, surveying the agricultural scene there.

While in Thailand, Mr. Rhind visited various places, including Chiengmai, Ranong, Chumporn and Songkhla in order to tie up a number of loose-ends left over from his initial Thai survey in February. He returned to Dacca late last month and is currently arranging for the arrival, in September, of the new contingent of expert consultants who are to assist in implementing the project.

While in the Philippines, Mr. Rhind had a busy schedule meeting officials and agricultural experts and visiting research establishments in Manila, Los Banos, Albay Provinces, and Davao, Mindanao.

As a result of his discussions and on-the-spot investigation, Mr. Rhind was able to put together a picture of the conditions and the extent to which research is being carried out in the Philippines.

"A great deal of research is being carried on into many aspects of agricultural", he said, "though some of it is being conducted in a rather confusing way due, I think, to a surplus of agencies that are inclined to work independently of each other, instead of as teams in a more co-ordinated way". The "team" aspect, he explained, was most important as the best results were invaribly obtaining in agricultural research as a result of specialists co-operating together. He cited as an example plant breeding research which could only be effective when carried out in collaboration with plant physiologists and plant nutritionists. It could never be fully effective if plant breeders carry on independently of other specialists.

Impressive research

Mr. Rhind found that by far the most impressive and significant research work was being done at the large Los Banos complex which comprises, in addition to the College of Agriculture, numerous other centres of research into forestry, fisheries, dairy farming, teaching and training facilities — not forgetting the all-important International Rice Research Institute.

"This Institute is probably the most important single centre in natural resources research and training in the whole of South-East Asia with a strong international flavour that brings students and researchers from many tropical countries," Mr. Rhind said.

Citing the International Rice Research Institute as a model example of what can be done by adopting co-ordinating team research methods, Mr. Rhind said that progress made by the Institute had been phenomenal with a series of very high yielding rices being produced with great rapidity.

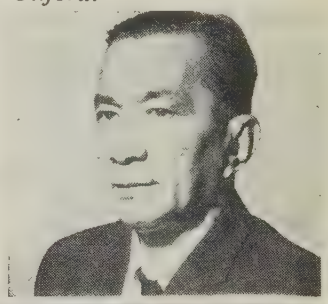
He added that the main achievements in rice research seemed to be stemming from the application of basic physiological characteristics in the breeding programme. "Success stems far more from studies of the physiology of the rice plants than from formal genetics," Mr. Rhind said.

In addition to rice he found that considerable progress was being made with the breeding of new varieties of maize.

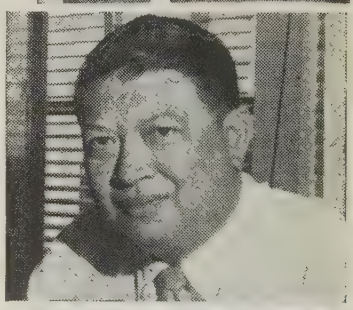
With much research already being undertaken by various agencies, Mr. Rhind found difficulty in discovering any "loopholes" which could be usefully plugged by SEATO embarking upon a project of its own. However, it became more and more clear that one factor appearing to offer scope for the future is that of weed control, research into which calls for a far more fundamental approach. Another side of research that could well benefit from more attention was biological control of insects.

Who they are...

- *Dr. G.R. Scott, senior lecturer, Royal School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh.*
- *Mr. H.H. Rogers, senior plant breeder, Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge.*
- *Mr. J.K. Coulter, adviser on tropical soils, Directorate of Overseas Surveys, Surbiton, Surrey.*
- *Mr. C. Parker, expert in tropical weed control, Weed Research Organization, Agricultural Research Council, Oxford.*



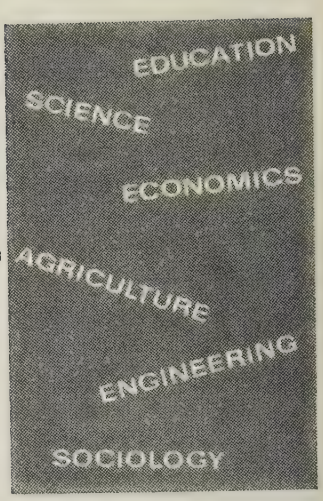
Prince Pensiri Chakrabandu, Director General of the Agricultural Department, Ministry of Agriculture.



Mr. Porn Resanontha, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Extension, Kasetsart University, Bangkok.

Dr. Sanga Sabhasri, Lecturer in the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University Bangkok.

SEATO awards Fellowships to nine top experts



NINE distinguished scholars and specialists representing Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom have been awarded SEATO Research Fellowships for the year 1968-69. The topics of their projected research range from micrometereology and science education to the economics of agricultural development and social changes among hill-tribes.

Prof. C. Haimendorf

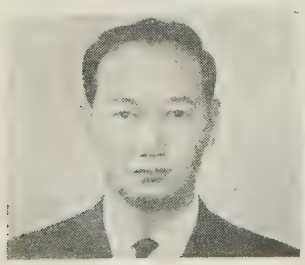
The last-named project will be carried out by Mr. C. von Furer Haimendorf, Professor of Asian Anthropology at the University of London and Head of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology of the University's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Professor Haimendorf has had 35 years' experience working on and among the hill-tribes of India and neighbouring countries; his latest books include *Caste and Kinship in Nepal, India and Ceylon (1965);* and *Morals and Merits: a Study of Values and Social Controls in South Asian Societies (1967).*

His SEATO-sponsored project will be a study of Social changes among the Ifugao and other hill-tribes in Northern Luzon in the Philippines.

Miss M.R. Haswell

Another SEATO Fellow from the United Kingdom, Miss Margaret R. Haswell, a Senior Lecturer in the University of Oxford, will undertake a study of the economics of agricultural development and the transfer of surpluses for economic growth in the three Asian Members of SEATO—Thailand, the Philippines and Pakistan. Some of Miss Haswell's former students in agricultural economics and related fields from these three countries will be working in close collaboration with her during her first-hand observation tour of the areas under study.



Mr. Sala Chaitval

The two SEATO Fellows from Thailand this year are Miss Chusiri Chamoraman, a lecturer in History at the Silpakorn University, and Mr. Sala Chavalit, an Economist of the Office of the National Economic Development Board of Thailand.

Miss Chusiri, whose special area is the social, economic and cultural history of South-East Asia,—particularly of Thailand—will be carrying out research on trade relations between Europe and South-East Asia.

Miss Chusiri Chamoraman

Mrs. J.A. Manalo

Mr. L.G. Cesar

Mr. B. Mainsbridge

Mr. J.M. Barrington

Mr. Z.M. Khilji

Mr. Sala's SEATO-assisted project will be a comparative study of the labour problems in the three Asian Members of SEATO, dealing with the subject in all its pertinent aspects, namely, economic, legal, administrative, social and psychological.

Both Mr. L.G. Cesar and Mrs. J.A. Manalo, representing the Philippines among the fellowship recipients, will be dealing with education in their respective research. Mr. Cesar, Assistant Administrative Officer. Bureau of Public Schools, will be working on a comparative study of educational legislation in South-East Asia and SEATO member countries.

Mrs. Manalo is Head of the Department of Chemistry, Philippine Women's University. Her project consists of attending a 3-month course on Science Education in one of the Universities of the United Kingdom and consultations with experts at the UNESCO centre in Paris, with the purpose of starting a training programme in science education in the Philippines to improve techniques in use among Philippine schools.

Low-cost housing

Mr. Zafar Masud Khilji, Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, West Pakistan, has been granted a SEATO fellowship to study the application of industrialized construction for low-cost building and housing estates in the developing countries of South-East Asia, including the manufacture of pre-cast concrete elements.

The New Zealand SEATO Fellow this year is Mr. John M. Barrington, Lecturer in Education, Victoria University of Wellington, who will be making a pilot study of (a) the potential contribution of two regional universities of Thailand—Chiengmai in the north and Khon Kaen in the north-east, to utilizing the pool of talent among secondary school leavers; and (b) first and second level manpower requirements in the northern areas of rural Thailand.

The Australian awardee of the SEATO Fellowship, Mr. Bruce Mainsbridge, is Associate Professor and Head of the Physics Department, University of Papua and New Guinea. Professor Mainsbridge will be visiting the Applied Scientific Research Corporation to observe Thailand's micrometereological programme "TREND" and its installations in connexion with his work on applying methods of physical measurement to agriculture.

Over 100 awards

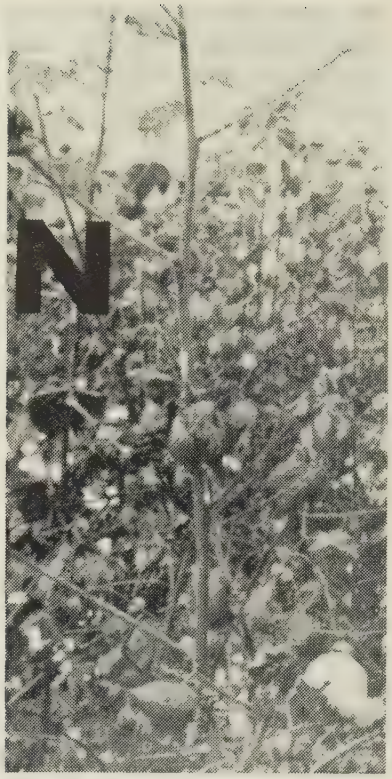
The nine specialists awarded Fellowships this year were selected from 37 applicants. Since the project was launched, in 1957, more than a hundred Fellowship awards have been made available by SEATO to experts in a wide range of subjects.

The Fellowship awards are part of SEATO'S Cultural Programme, now in its 12th year, which aims at exchanging and disseminating knowledge of respective cultures of member countries, thus leading to greater mutual understanding.

The Cultural Programme as a whole, helps to stimulate co-operation in the region, and in addition to Fellowships, the Organization awards numerous Scholarships, and Professorships each year, finances various cultural and educational projects within member countries, and sponsors a number of useful seminars.

COTTON

an up and coming crop



Two aid projects being undertaken by France and the United Kingdom — both SEATO member nations — are helping in a big way to boost cotton production in Thailand.

IMPORTS of cotton into Thailand may soon be a thing of the past. Both the United Kingdom and France are helping the country under separate aid projects to expand cotton production both to save foreign exchange and to provide farmers with a useful additional cash crop.

Although these projects have been given scant publicity they are not new ones by any means. In fact the United Kingdom assistance, under the Colombo Plan, dates back to as long ago as 1957 following a World Bank survey mission which recommended further exploration of Thailand's cotton growing prospects.

France, on the other hand, as part of its technical aid programme to Thailand, sent a three-man mission of experts two years ago to advise Thai cotton growers and to work with them to improve their crops by utilizing advanced scientific methods.

Since these early days much has been achieved both on the research and the practical sides. The French and U.K. projects neither contradict nor overlap but rather complement each other.

While the French experts work mainly in the fields, living with the farmers and carrying out practical tasks, the U.K. project is mainly concerned with research.

Mr. Pierre De Terves, a member of the French team of cotton experts, is pictured here demonstrating a new sprayer given by France to Thailand to help combat pests and disease in crops of cotton.

Currently heading the French team of experts is Mr. Octave de Terves who is working among cotton growers in Nakhon Pathom. Others of the team are Mr. Pierre de Terves working at Pak Chong in Korat Province, Mr. Rene Deverdun working in Sukhothai, and Mr. Le Gall who is residing in Bangkok.

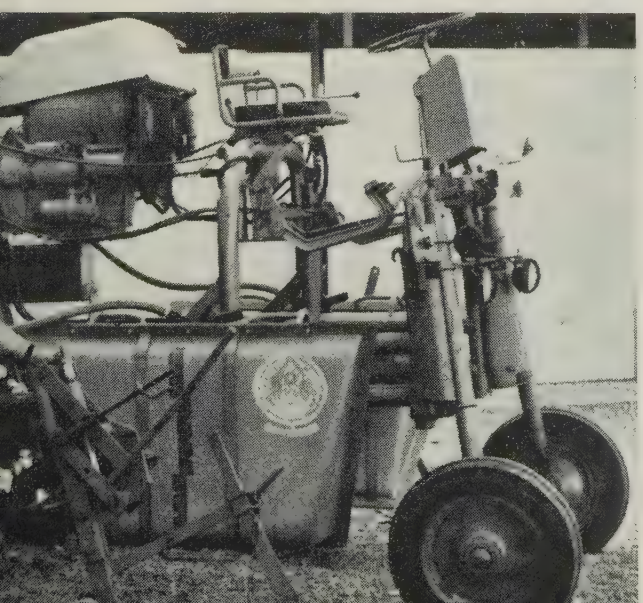
Under Mr. Octave de Terves's guidance new methods of cotton growing amongst farmers in Nakhon Pathom have resulted in their output being doubled.

Mr. Pierre de Terves has been in Thailand since January 1964 and is mainly involved in selecting farmers for training as suitable instructors. He is also an adviser to the provincial agricultural authorities in the provinces of Lopburi, Nakhon Sawan, Korat and Khon Khaen. As adviser to the provincial authorities in Sukhothai Mr. Deverdun, a comparative newcomer to the team, has helped organize an administration farm run by the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Le Gall, an entomologist, is the only one of the team to focus mainly on research and is co-operating in this respect with Thai officials.

While the French team is doing valuable work by helping to implement new methods and techniques of cultivating cotton, the United Kingdom team is doing behind-the-scene research work, and providing equipment for processing cotton.

In July 1965, for example, a ginning factory was opened in Tak Fa, built under the direction of Mr. H. Cars, a cotton ginning engineer, provided by the United Kingdom under the Colombo Plan. Equipment for this factory was provided by the British Government at a cost of £50,000. Working with Mr. Cars at this time were two other experts, Mr. K.R.M. Anthony, a cotton breeder and Mr. A.J. Jones, an entomologist.

British assistance has recently been stepped up with the establishment of a cotton farm development centre, also in Tak Fa. In charge of this particular project is Mr. M.S. Hastie assisted by Mr. J. Smithson, an agricultural machinery expert. A third member of this team, Mr. R.J. Grimble, is an agricultural economist who arrived in Thailand five months ago.



The British Ambassador, Sir Neil Prichard (with camera), is seen here touring part of the new cotton ginning factory at Tak Fa built with British assistance under the Colombo Plan. The machines are used for separating the cotton seeds from the fibres.

As well as providing experts Britain is also helping with the capital cost of the farm, workshop buildings and farmer training buildings at Tak Fa.

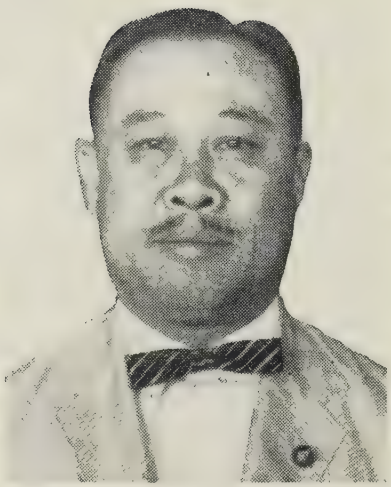
The purpose of the project is to establish a cotton farm development centre in support of the expanding programme of rainfed cotton production in upland farm development in Thailand.

Furthermore, a cotton fibre and yarn testing laboratory is being set up at Bangkhen in support of the programme for cotton development. The British Government is providing all the testing equipment and an expert, Mr. C. Underwood, who arrived 9 months ago, to set up the laboratory and train staff in its operation.

A cotton marketing expert, Mr. C. Lewis, has recently arrived in Thailand to review present needs and likely future trends of the cotton industry.

Thus under the impetus of the French and British aid programmes cotton farming in Thailand is taking on a new lease of life and as well as helping to diversify agriculture will eventually lead to hard earned savings in the country's foreign exchange.

PRAPASS EXPOSES HANOI'S THAI TAKEOVER BID



—and warns of need for vigilance

THE recent attack on Udorn Air Base in North East Thailand was "one piece of evidence" cited by the Minister of Interior and Deputy Prime Minister, General Prapass Charusathiara, which established that North Vietnam, and not Red China alone, was aiming, at an eventual Communist takeover of the country.

Speaking at a Press conference on July 31 he said that further evidence had been the capture of a North Vietnamese Army Captain. Statements by the the Captain, he said, were closely linked with documents found on the Communist terrorists killed in the attack on the Udorn base.

According to Gen. Prapass, the North Vietnamese officer, identified only as Duong, was captured by government forces while operating with Thai terrorists and insurgent hill tribesmen in Uttradit province in North Thailand.

He was sent to Thailand, Gen. Prapass said, to organize and lead insurgency for the overthrow of the Thai government for the benefit of North Vietnam.

The documents in Vietnamese found on the dead raiders in Udorn, he said, were directives from Hanoi and Hoa Binh instructing field operators to incite disunity and unrest among the Thai people.

The documents clearly stated that additional strength would be sent from North Vietnam to join the terrorists later.

"It is now certain," he said, "that not only Red China but also North Vietnam wants to occupy Thailand.

He then urged the Thai people to use Communist tactics to fight the Communists. "We must do everything the Communists can do to us," he said.

Thailand, he pointed out, has a reputation for being a good friend but a very bad enemy. He said the Communists have never shown regard for international law, humanity or ethics.

"We must answer the Communists' lawless action with blood for blood, tooth for tooth and eye for eye," he said.

Gen. Prapass warned the Thai people against falling victims to the lure of communism and "borrowing alien hands to support their own illusive ambition."

He said a review of the situation during the past two weeks showed an increase in Communist activities in many areas. From this, he said, it could be assumed that orders have been sent from outside for local terrorists to step up their activities to boost the sagging morale of the depleted units.

9 years in Thailand — a home from home for Mr. Clarac

HIS Excellency Mr. Achille Clarac, French Ambassador to Thailand and Council Representative for France to SEATO since 1959, retired at the end of last month after 38 years with the Foreign Service.

Beginning with the post of third secretary in Washington, D.C., Mr. Clarac's distinguished and eventful career has included assignments in Lisbon with the Free French Government, in Chungking just before the Communist takeover, in Saigon during the critical years between 1945 and 1947, and as Ambassador in Damascus from 1955 to 1956.

In Bangkok, where his practical internationalism and wisdom have made him one of the most popular diplomats in and out of diplomatic circles, Mr. Clarac was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from 1965 until his retirement last month.

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The French Ambassador, Mr. Achille Clarac, examines in the picture below the Sukhothai jar which his SEATO colleagues have presented to him on his retirement.

Over the past few years France and Thailand, though their goal is a common one within the framework of SEATO, have not always agreed as to the best way to achieve this goal. Bonds of friendship, however, have remained strong and effective, resulting in increasing cultural exchanges and vigorous technical co-operation.

Mr. Clarac has been one of the most active champions of this friendship and one of the busiest in helping to translate it into action of mutual benefit.

Mr. Clarac's personal relations with the host country and its people have been more than cordial — so much so that he has decided to build a house by the

The Philippines Ambassador, Mauro Calingo (left), the Acting Secretary-General, Mr. David A Wraight, Ambassador Clarac and Mrs. Ronald Scrivenor of the British Embassy are pictured here at the farewell dinner for Mr. Clarac.

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river Chao Phya in suburban Bangkok where he intends to live part of the year while continuing his study of Thai history and culture. He has written a guidebook on Thailand, as a matter of fact, and this will be published by a French firm early next year.

To add to Mr. Clarac's new home, his colleagues in SEATO — the Council Representatives, and SEATO Secretary-General Jesus M. Vargus, represented by Mr. David Wraight — presented him with an ancient Thai water jar, dating back to the Sukhothai period, at a farewell dinner given by Ambassador Mauro Calingo of the Philippines, Chairman of the Council representatives for July.

Mr. Clarac is succeeded by Mr. P. Falaize, a former Ambassador to Laos.

LEARNING BY EAR HELPS STUDENTS MASTER ENGLISH

In the picture above technician Thanit Bantow plays the recorders while the students listen, guided by mimeographed sheets which they are able to dispense with as the lessons progress. Words and sentences are repeated after the speaker throughout the session.

FOR most Thais who have learned English in school but have never had the opportunity to use it, the language tends to remain a mystery — rather beautiful to behold but impracticable as a tool. At university level, many students have difficulty in making use of it, and they need to be able to, for English today, *has* become a tool, and an essential one.

Thailand's universities are well aware of this situation. Efforts have been and continue to be made on their part to improve the methods of teaching English.

At Thammasat University, a self-help language training programme, offered as part of its library services, has been in progress for some months and according to the librarian, Mrs. Chitra Pranit, shows great promise as a device for helping students.

This is primarily a listening programme, consisting of a stereophonic tape recorder, taped lessons spoken by persons whose native tongue is English, mimeographed lessons with some explanation in Thai, and a 'listening corner' comprising two transcription players and eight headphones. The equipment has been bought out of a SEATO grant of $3,000 presented for the purpose of assisting the library to expand its audio-visual services.

In the picture on the right a group takes advantage of the 'listening corner' located not far from the auditorium. Fitted out with headphones they sit around the record players following a set of voiced lessons.

From left are Rasana Savasdiparb, Manchari Norapallop, Poonsin Viraprasert and Supatara Petsut, all fourth year students in the Department of Library Science.

The seven aims of ASPAC

MEMBER NATIONS ISSUE FINAL COMMUNIQUE

THE Asian and Pacific Council (ASPAC) ended its third annual meeting on August 1, with a final communique issued by the nine participating nations with a hope, pledge and an implied prayer.

In its communique the nine-member nations hoped and prayed that the Paris talks would lead to peace negotiations in the war in Vietnam in which South Vietnam would "naturally play a leading role."

It pledged that its members would do all possible to assist in the postwar rehabilitation of South Vietnam and "other countries" — including North Vietnam — hit by the war.

The nine members are Australia, Nationalist China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and South Vietnam.

ASPAC ministers agreed to uphold seven principles and objectives which the communique listed as:

- Mutual respect for national sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity;
- Attainment of equality, freedom and justice for all;
- Pursuit to peace and settlement of disputes by peaceful means and respect for the rule of law;
- Realization of a regional community where peace, order and progress are ensured;
- Emphasis on the self-reliance of the Asian and Pacific peoples based on their sense of a common destiny and regional solidarity;
- Promotion of close co-operation in economic, social and cultural fields aimed at furthering the development of a prosperous community of Asian and Pacific nations;
- Strengthening of collaboration with other nations and existing international and regional organizations.

The ministers signed an agreement to establish a cultural and social centre in Seoul.

The purpose of the centre will be to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding in Asia and the Pacific through promoting collaboration in cultural and related social fields.

The fourth ASPAC meeting will be held in Tokyo next summer.

ASPAC ministers unanimously agreed to accept an offer by the Japanese government to host the next conference. Japan was the only country to offer a venue.

Plans for economic centre in Bangkok

A Proposal to establish an Asian Regional Economic Co-ordination centre (ECOCEN) in Bangkok was made to the third meeting of ASPAC Ministers in Canberra by the Thai Foreign Minister, Thanat Khoman.

Thailand offered to meet all establishment and operational costs for the first three years of ECOCEN's existence.

Mr. Thanat said the centre should promote accelerated economic development in member countries, encourage economic co-operation, promote greater stability in foreign trade and help establish closer trading links among ASPAC members.

ASPAC's standing committee will investigate the proposal and make a firm recommendation to the ministerial conference in Tokyo next year.

Mr. Thanat explained ECOCEN would act as a "clearing house" of information and would not be an aid-seeking body.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

A HELPING HAND FOR THAI BOY

Chatchai Annardbudolee, a six-year-old Thai boy, will soon join his friends in play for the first time in his young life, thanks to members of the American 1982 Communications Squadron.

Chatchai spent the first six years of his life with a deformed left foot that was at a right angle to his leg. His parents could not afford the medical expenses needed to correct the condition.

So the young Thai boy's condition was brought to the attention of the squadron by Staff Sergeant John F. Grundy, an air traffic controller. Master Sergeant Robert A. Sinnott, the squadron's civic actions project officer, immediately recognized this as a very worth-while project and the wheels were set in motion to help Chatchai.

Sergeant Sinnott coordinated his efforts with those of the base chaplain's office and local Ubon officials, and arranged medical assistance for the boy. After two months in the hospital, during which two operations were performed, Chatchai is home again. Soon he will walk and run as any six-year-old should. (USIS)

MORE ROOM NOW FOR STUDENT

Students from 17 countries, including Thailand and Australia are moving into Sydney's second International House, which recently opened its doors at the University of New South Wales.

There are two other International Houses, one in Melbourne and the other in Brisbane. They are residential colleges open to students of all nationalities attending the university and are financed through voluntary subscriptions and government assistance.

International House at the University of New South Wales cost $A800,000 of which half was raised through an appeal and included a donation from the Government of Thailand and the remainder was contributed by the Australian Government and the State Government of New South Wales.

Built in the grounds of the university, the three-storey building accommodates 120 students, 60 of them from 16 overseas countries.

The building is simple in design and has been created around a central courtyard with a Japanese garden and rock pool.

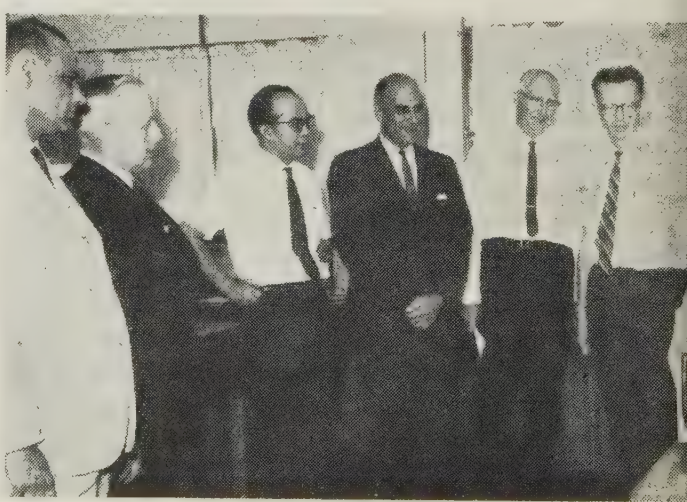
The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler who officially opened the building, said International Houses encouraged an international outlook. (AIS)

SEATO officials pay informal visit to medical faculty

The Acting Secretary-General of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization, Mr. David A. Wraight, and the Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, Major General Autrey Maroun, recently paid a "neighbourly" visit to the Faculty of Medical Science, University of Medical Sciences, Sri Ayuthaya Road. The Faculty is next door to SEATO Headquarters.

The visit was in response to an invitation from Dr. Stang Mongkolsuk, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Science.

In the picture Dr. Olson, (right) Head of the Bio-Chemistry Department, explain the function of his work. Left to right are Mr. S.M.H. Rizvi, SEATO Director of Cultural and Economic Affairs; Mr. Wraight; Dr. Stang Mongkolsuk; General Maroun; Dr. Guile, SEATO Professor of Organic Chemistry, who is attached to the faculty, and Dr. Olson.



AUSTRALIAN M.P. VISITS SEATO

Australian Member of the House of Representatives for Chisolm, Victoria, The Hon. Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes, K.B.E., M.V.O., MC, ED, MA (Oxford), recently paid a courtesy call on SEATO Acting Secretary-General, Mr. David A. Wraight, at SEATO Headquarters in Bangkok.

Sir Wilfrid, who was on a brief visit to Thailand during a Far East observation tour, is pictured here (right) with Mr. Wraight during informal discussions they held on Asian affairs. Japan, Taipeh and South Vietnam were among other countries that Sir Wilfrid visited before returning to Australia.

Another recent visitor to SEATO Headquarters from Australia was Senator Peter Sim who had informal talks with Mr. Wraight.

CENTO Spotlights Health

Raising the standard of health in countries of the CENTO region was highlighted in statements made at the opening session of the CENTO sub-committee on health in Istanbul on July 23.

The sub-committee discussed subjects which will help in developing the good health of the populations of the region, said Dr. Recep Heybell, Deputy Under Secretary of the Turkish Ministry of Health, and chairman of the meeting.

"Public health is an extremely important subject," said Mr. Turgut Menemencioglu, CENTO Secretary General, in a special message read at the meeting. He pointed out that it ranges through the fields of family planning, nutrition, control of disease, administration of hospitals and others. "More than ever we become aware in the increasing tempo of modern life of the necessity for a healthy mind in a healthy body."

Fifteen delegates from the five CENTO countries participated in the meeting.

R.A.A.F. jet Squadron Leaves Ubol

EIGHT Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Sabre jet aircraft have left the Royal Thai Air Force Base, Ubol, for Butterworth in Malaysia after six years of duty in Thailand.

The jets from 79 Squadron, R.A.A.F. arrived in Thailand in 1962 under a SEATO. arrangement with the Government of Thailand.

The Australian Ambassador, Mr. D.W. McNicol, visited Ubol to say farewell to the air and ground-crews and also witness a ceremonial flypast.

Mr. McNicol, who also visited the Thai-Australian road project at Tak, was accompanied by the Australian Services Attache, Col. D.H. Crompton.

In a statement released in Canberra earlier, the Minister for Defence, Mr. Fairhall, said that the squadron would be regrouped with R.A.A.F. units based at Butterworth. He said that the regrouping would not affect the capability of the air force to deploy, if required, in support of Australia's obligations under the South-East Asia Treaty Organization.

Civic aid has been a parallel role of the Australian jet squadron during its tour of duty at Ubol. Assistance has been mainly in the fields of education, health and road communication. (AIS)

Electronics help keep lifelines open

Pictured above are representatives to the Communications Electronics Working Party. Second on the left, front row, is the co-ordinator and chairman, Lieut. Col. K.J. Taylor, (Australia) of the Military Planning Office.

Communications: lessons learned from 'Ramasoon'

DESCRIBED by General Autrey J. Maroun, Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, as the most successful meeting of its kind ever held, a Communications Electronics Working Party ended at SEATO Headquarters on July 25.

Ten days earlier at the opening session, General Maroun pointed out that communications were the lifeblood of any military operation. "It is particularly essential in multinational combined operations that communications facilities are properly planned and then tested in command post and tactical exercises.

"This is the first meeting convened to study the results of the command post Exercise 'Ramasoon' held early in 1968. This working party is an excellent start towards solving the many problems revealed during that exercise".

Forty-one representatives from member nations attended the working party. Lt. Col. K.J. Taylor of Australia from the SEATO Military Planning Office was the meeting Co-ordinator and Chairman.

At the meeting, tribute was paid to Brig. Gen. Harry A. French, U.S. Air Force, who is shortly to retire after serving as Assistant Chief of Staff Communications Electronics in CINCPAC for the last four years.

During this time he has had the most difficult task of overseeing the tremendous growth in military communications throughout South-East Asia.

The report prepared by the working party was forwarded to the Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, and is now with member nations.

Gen. Vargas Meets SEATO Scholars

SEATO post-graduate scholars from Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand got together at SEATO Headquarters recently before the start of their journey to various institutions in the three countries where they will be working for higher degrees during the next two years. They are shown here with SEATO Secretary-General, Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, after having been briefed on SEATO activities. From left are G.M. Zarif of Pakistan; Nattapong Charoenpit of Thailand; M.A. Siddiqui of Pakistan; S.P. Neric of the Philippines; General Vargas; Pong Watanuwat, Raevadee Vithakamontri and Supatara Hanviriyapant of Thailand.

26 THAIS TO STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

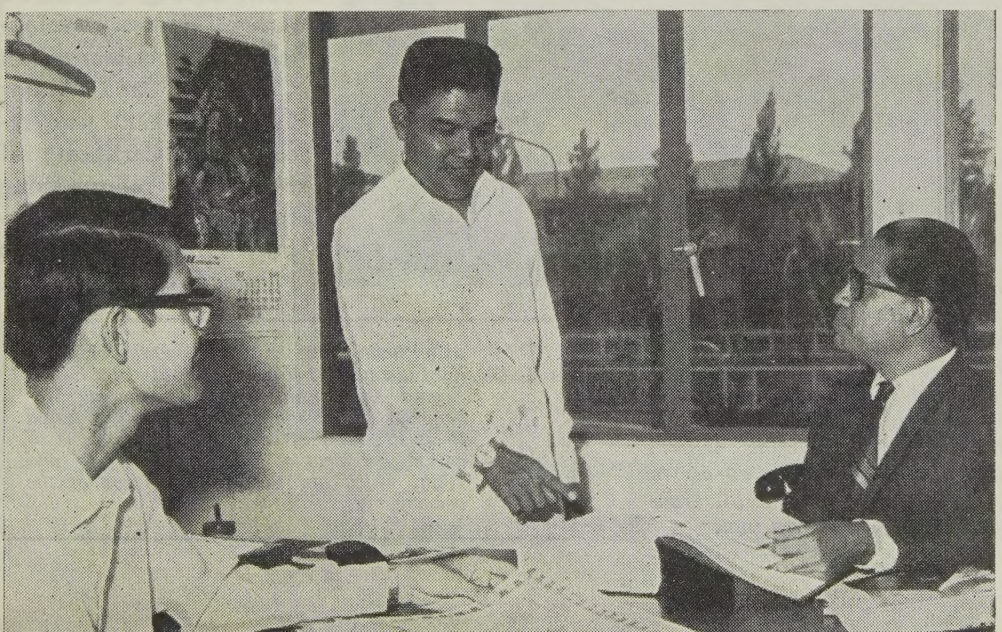
A party of 26 Thai students left Bangkok recently for up to five years study at Australian universities.

The students were nominated by the Thai Government for scholarships under the Colombo Plan. They will study courses leading to Bachelor Degrees in engineering, science, economics, maths, agriculture. However, emphasis is placed on engineering courses in keeping with the need for skilled engineers for Thailand's economic development plan.

The scholarships are awarded annually under Australia's Colombo Plan aid programme. Last year 18 students were granted scholarships and are now studying at universities.

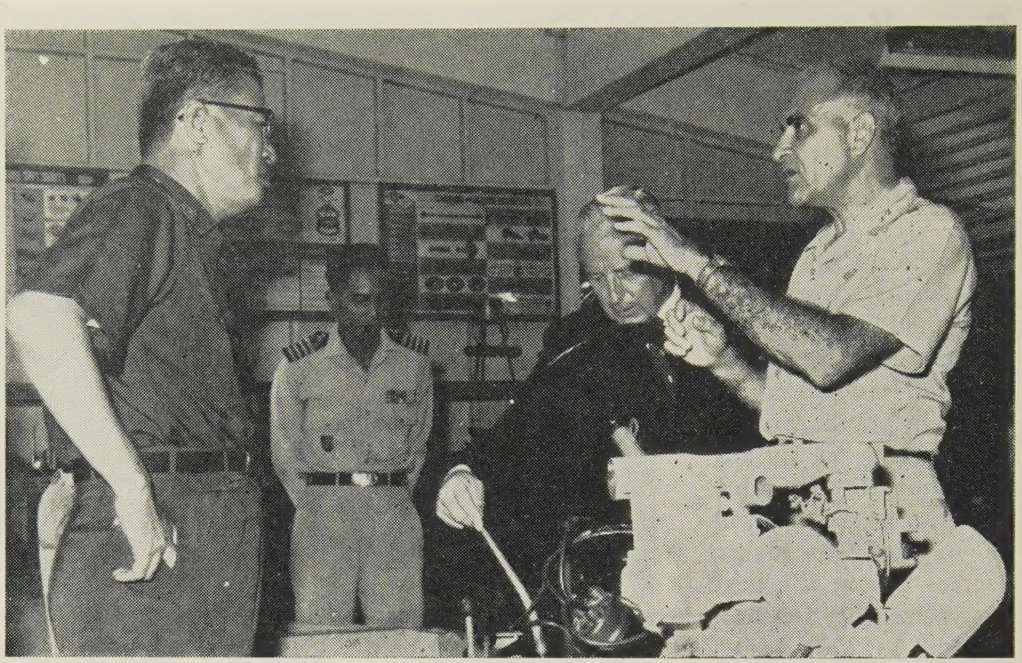
A condition of the award, laid down by the Thai Government, is that the students on their return from Australia must work for a set number of years with the Thai Government. (AIS)

Two Homeward bound from Karachi



Mr. Ricardo S. Domingo (left) and Major Lossiete A. Oracion, who have been working for their higher degrees at the University of Karachi under the SEATO Scholarship Programme, are shown at SEATO Headquarters with Mr. Abul Hussain, SEATO Assistant Radio/TV Officer, during a recent stopover in Bangkok on their way home to the Philippines.

'THIS IS HOW IT WORKS'



The newly appointed Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, General Autrey J. Maroun, U.S. Army, recently inspected the Military Technical Training School at Bangkhen, on the outskirts of Bangkok, which began as a SEATO project, but is now operated jointly by the Thai and Australian Governments.

He was accompanied by the Acting Secretary-General of SEATO, Mr. David A. Wraight.

In the photograph the Commandant, Air Vice Marshal Chamrat Vinagupta (left) discusses with General Maroun (right) and Mr. Wraight one of the school's vehicle engines used in the training of motor mechanics. In the background is Capt. Chob Sirodom, Royal Thai Navy, the Deputy Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office.

AWARDS FOR TWO SEATO OFFICERS

Two SEATO military officers received awards from the Chief of the Military Planning Office, General Autrey J. Maroun, at a ceremony held at SEATO Headquarters, Bangkok on July 31.

They were Captain Joseph D. Lloyd, Gen. Maroun's aide at SEATO, who received the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for his outstandingly meritorious service while serving with the US Army Combat Developments Experimantation Command, and Major Prasit Prabhant who received a Certificate of Merit on relinquishing the appointment of Deputy Director (Military) Public Information Office.

Visit by Marines chief

General Leonard F. Chapman, the Commandant US Marine Corps, visited SEATO Headquarters in Bangkok on August 2 where he called on the Acting Secretary-General, Mr. David Wraight, and the Chief of the Military Planning Office, General Autrey J. Maroun. Pictured above from left to right are Mr. Wraight, General Chapman and General Maroun.

NOTE: In an article on the Mangla Dam of West Pakistan in the February issue of the SEATO Record His Excellency Field-Marshal Mohammad Ayub Khan was inadvertently referred to as President of West Pakistan. He is of course, President of Pakistan, both East and West, which are the two provinces of the country.

On your Bookshelf

DONNITHORNE, Audrey. China's Economic System. London, Allen and Unwin, 1967. 592p. 330.951

FALL, Bernard. B. Hell in a Very Small Place: the siege of Dien Bien Phu. London, Pall Mall, 1967. xii, 515p., illus. 959.7

HO, Alfred K. The Far East in World Trade; developments and growth since 1945. New York, Praeger, 1967. xvii, 388p. 382.095

KECSKEMETI, P. Insurgency as a Strategic Problem. Santa. Monica, RAND Corporation, 1967. vii, 42p. (Memorandam RM-5160-PR) 355.42509597

LACOUTURE, Jean, Vietnam: Between Two Truces. London, Secker & Warburg, 1966. vi, 295p. 959.7

MITCHELL, Edward J. Inequality and Insurgency: a statistical study of South Vietnam. Santa Monica, RAND Corporation, 1967. 335.430951

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TRAGER, Frank N. Burma: from Kingdom to Independence; a historical and political analysis. London, Pall Mall, 1966. xiii, 455p. 959.1

WILLIAMS, Lea E. The Future of the Overseas Chinese in South-East Asia. New York, McGraw-Hill, viii, 143p. 325.2510959

SEATO PUBLICATIONS

(The following publications may be obtained, on request, from the Public Information Office, SEATO Headquarters, P.O. Box 517, Bangkok, Thailand.)

SEATO Annual Report 1966-67 (English, Thai) — by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, Secretary-General of SEATO.

SEATO: 1954-1964 (Thai) — A pictorial and written review of 10 years of SEATO progress.

Story of SEATO (English, Thai)
Information pamphlet on SEATO with notes on member countries.

Manila Pact and Pacific Charter
Texts of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty and the Pacific Charter, with explanatory notes.

Gandhara Sculpture in Pakistan (English, Thai)
The origin and development of Gandhara art.

Aspects of the History, Culture and Religions of Pakistan
Lectures by Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Karachi, as a travelling lecturer under the SEATO Cultural Programme.

Interpretative Translations of Thai Poets
by M.R. Seni Pramoj.

SEATO Activities Under the Cultural Relations Programme
SEATO activities from 1957-1964 in the field of education.

Post-graduate Studies in Asian SEATO Countries
A guide for applicants for SEATO post-graduate scholarships.

Collective Security: Shield of Freedom (Revised, 1963)
The nature and scope of the various collective security pacts linking 41 nations of the Free World. Foreword by Mr. Pote Sarasin, former Secretary-General of SEATO. 165 pp.

Medical
Research into Disease—I (Revised): Cholera (Pakistan —SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory) in English and Thai.
Research into Disease — II: The Search for Health (SEATO medical projects in Thailand).
Research into Disease—III: Malaria (SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok) in English and Thai.

Community Development
Report of the SEATO Seminar on Community Development, July 19-23, 1965.

Skilled Workers for the Armed Forces (English, Thai)
A description of the SEATO Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.

Training Workers for Developing Industries (English, Thai)
An account of the SEATO Skilled Labour Project in Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

Posters:
Better Communications for Better Living (English, Thai)
Skilled Hands for National Progress (English, Thai)
The Painter's View of his Country — I
Good Health Key to National Prosperity
Highway To Health (SEATO-Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca).

Communist Economic Subversion: A Reappraisal
by Dr. Hans Heymann Jr. A discussion of the growing Communist reliance on economic measures as tools of foreign policy.

Peking on Revolution
Extracts from speeches and articles on the 90th anniversary of the birth of Lenin indicating the demand for revolutionary uprising.

Communism in Decline: the Huk Campaign
by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas.

Defeating Communist Insurgency
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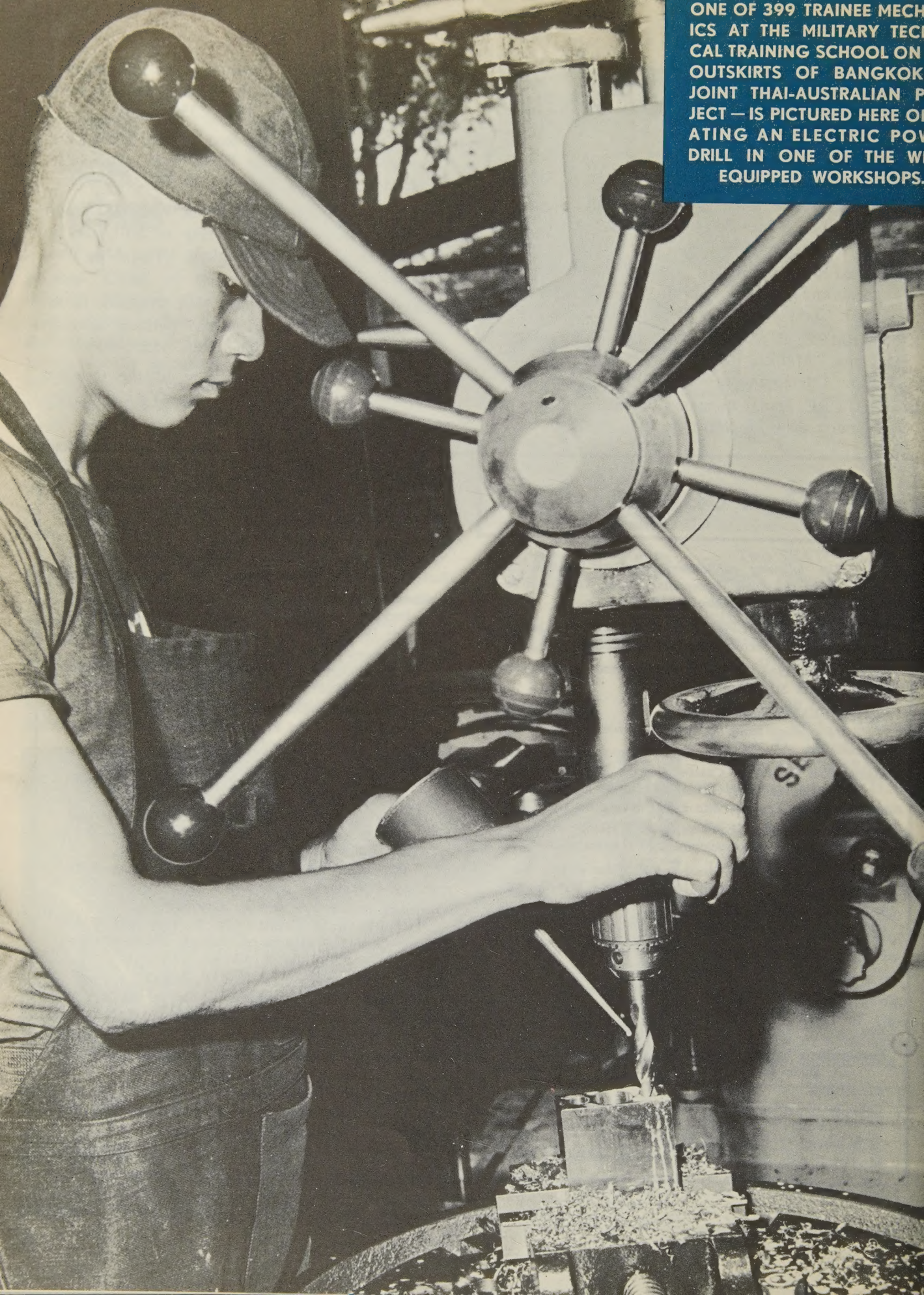
Radio Writers Handbook (English, Thai)
by Madeleine C. Meyer.

Printed by Sompong Chaicharoen at the Sompong Press Ltd. Part. 14/8 Pracharasdr Road, Bangkok, August 1968



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